

College football preview • Bill Walsh on Joe Montana

INSIDE

# SPORTS



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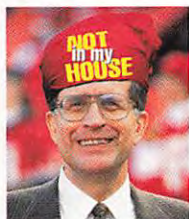
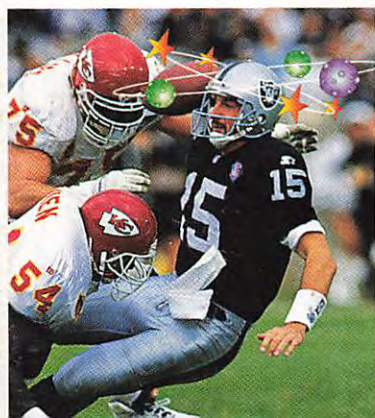
## Where to, DEION?

*Why Deion Sanders is the key to the season, plus the inside answers on all 30 NFL teams*

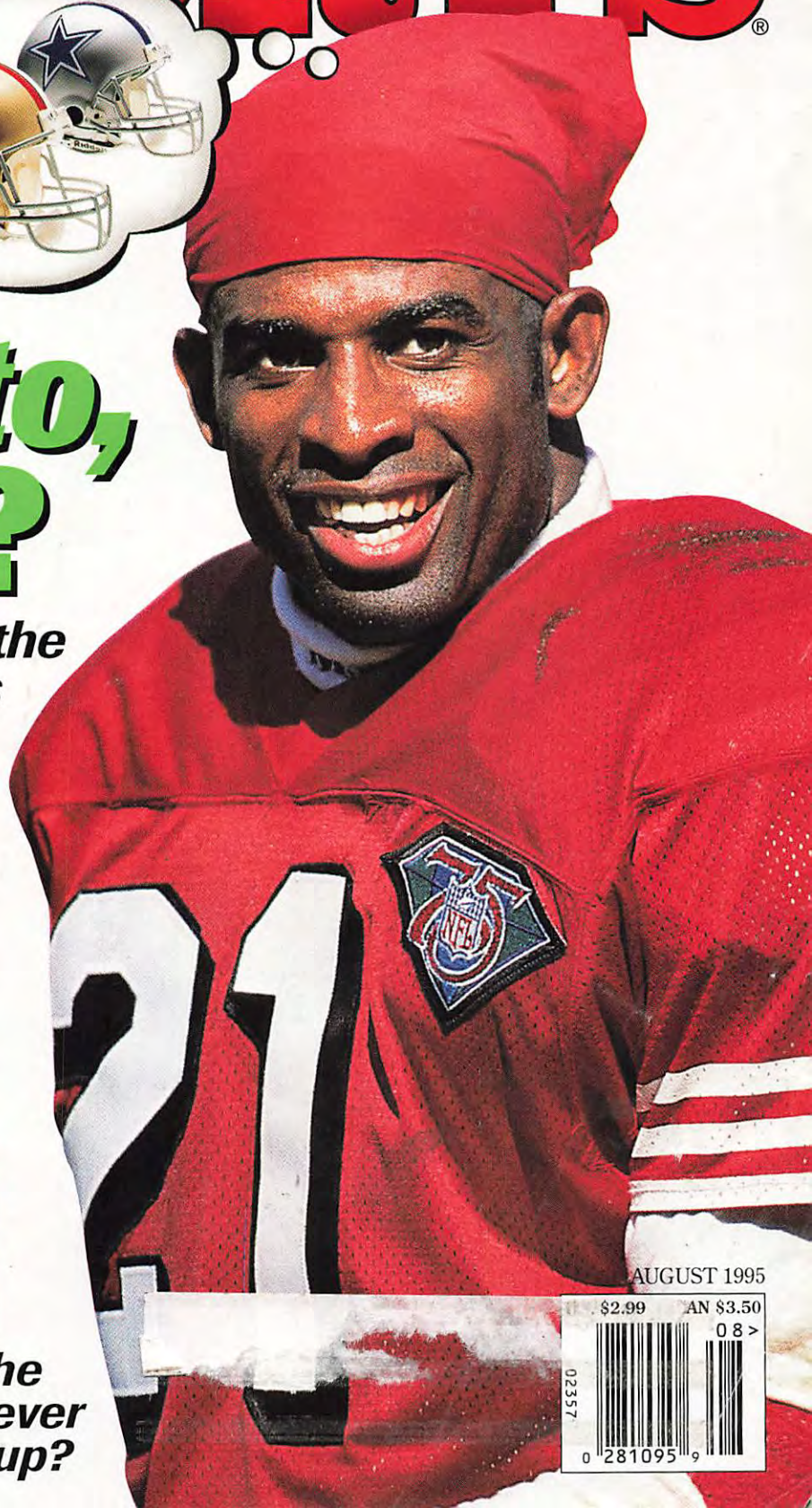
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■ Will Hoss survive?



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# INSIDE SPORTS

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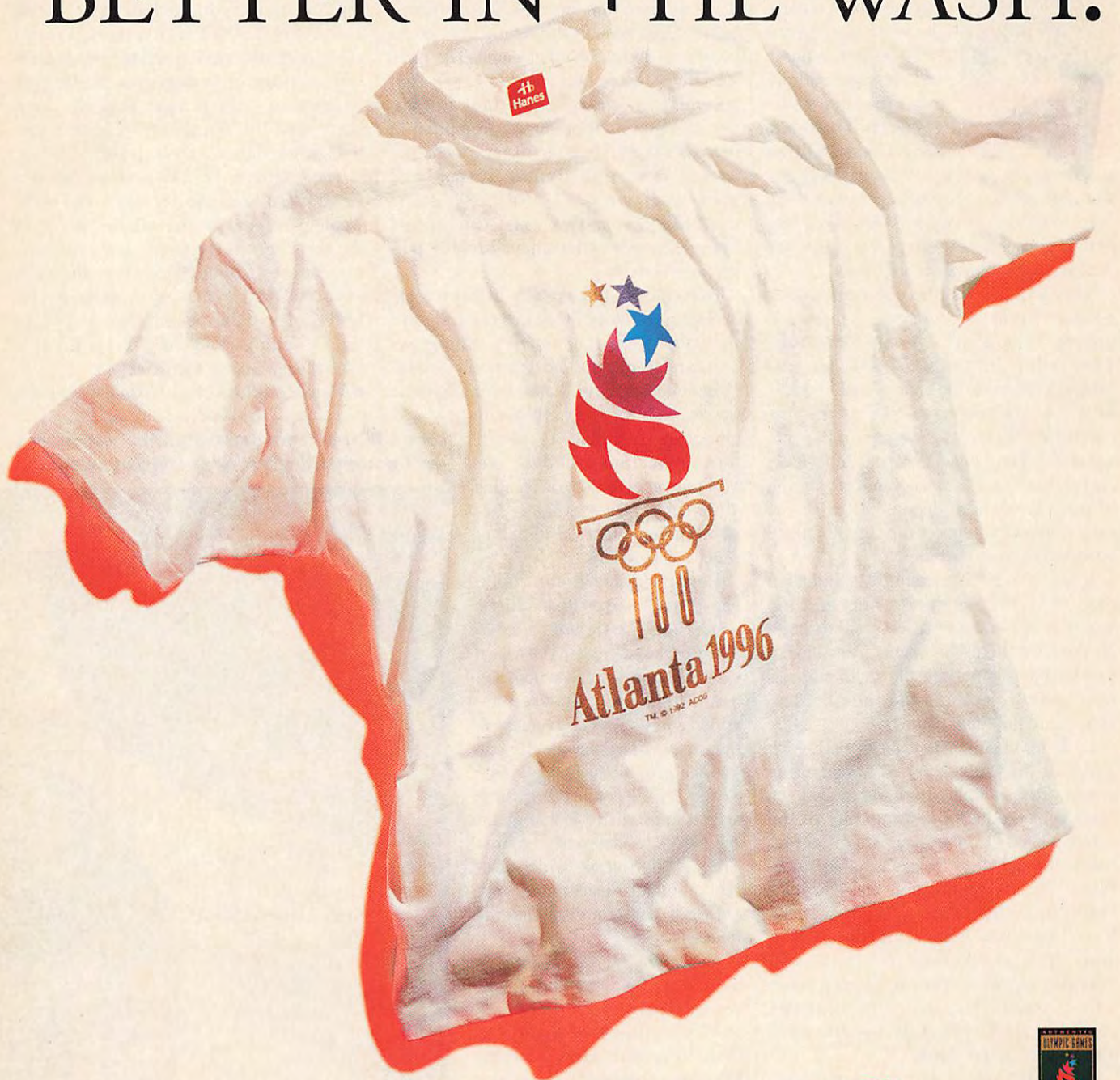
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By MARLEE MATLIN

**THE SMEARIN' O' THE GREEN**  
Notre Dame has a lot to prove after being buried last season



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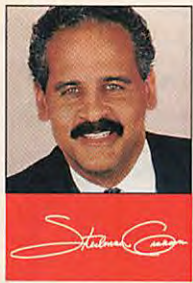
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By STEDMAN GRAHAM

## Ultimately, It's Up to the Fans



IN A PERFECT world, collegiate athletic programs for women would receive the same funding, the same level of support, and the same enthusiasm that men's programs do. Those who have been fighting

passionately to achieve parity between women's and men's sports programs will point to the NCAA Women's Final Four basketball tournament to suggest that the support and the enthusiasm are there.

They will point to the outstanding play of and the attention received by the unbeaten University of Connecticut team. They will point to the 36,000 fans who bought tickets for the championship game, as well as the respectable TV ratings garnered by CBS for its coverage of the title game between Connecticut and Tennessee. And they will say that the time has arrived to provide women's basketball with the same monetary support men's football and basketball programs receive.

If only it were that simple. The attention paid to UConn by sports fans and the media represented a major breakthrough for female athletes. To conduct this discussion on a perfectly honest level, though, it's necessary to look beyond the glitz and glamour of the Final Four.

Look, for example, to College Park, Md., home of the University of Maryland, a school with a winning tradition in women's college basketball and a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference, where basketball is the object of feverish fan devotion. When the Maryland men played Wake Forest in College Park last season, Cole Field House was filled to the rafters with more than 14,000 fans. When the two schools' women's teams played each other a few weeks later, you could hear the proverbial pin drop. A little more than 300 people were in the stands.

This is the rule rather than the exception in women's basketball. Yes, average attendance at NCAA Division I women's games has more than doubled in the past

13 years, but the numbers still aren't high enough to make advertisers or television network executives take notice. In 1982 women's NCAA games drew an average crowd of 432. In 1994 the number was 1,152. That's solid growth, but it's still not enough to make a strong economic argument for sexual parity in collegiate sports.

The University of North Carolina women's team won the 1994 NCAA championship; last season the team drew home crowds of about 2,800 per game. The male Tar Heels drew more than 21,000. And according to *Newsday*, a New York newspaper, UConn's men produced \$5 million in revenues last season for UConn, while the women, despite their perfect record and good crowd turnouts, lost \$160,000. As long as these disparities exist, inequities between men's and women's athletic programs will exist.

Advocates of full equality between male and female athletic programs can point to a number of examples where unfairness appears to exist. The Women's Sports Foundation reports that women's athletic programs don't come close to getting an equal share of the athletic department budget pie. Women receive 20% of campus athletic operating budgets, 16% of recruiting dollars, and 28% of scholarship dollars.

Legal efforts have been launched to narrow this athletic gender gap. Last March a federal court ruled against Brown University, saying the school had discriminated against female athletes in its decisions concerning support for various campus athletic programs. And periodic groundswells of protest have arisen among those who want the NCAA to vigorously enforce Title IX legislation, which prohibits gender discrimination at colleges that receive federal funds.

A surge of interest in women's hoops may be beginning. A survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin found that more than 16 schools are attracting average crowds of more than 4,000 fans for women's basketball. Stanford, which funds women's athletics at a level nearly equal to

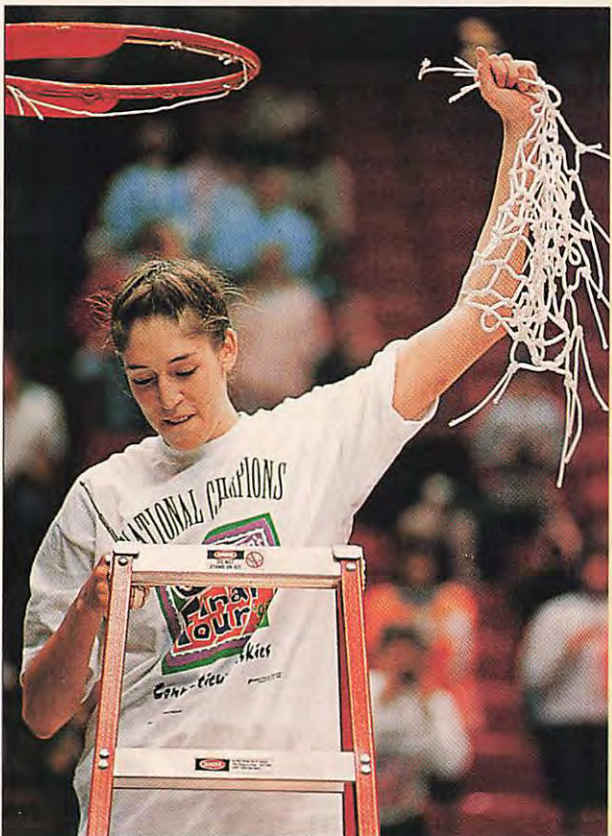
that of its men, averages crowds of more than 5,000 for women's hoops—virtually the same as its men's team. That lends credence to the idea that pumping more dollars into women's athletics programs will act as a catalyst to intensify fan interest.

Television also is coming around. ESPN signed a \$2.7 million contract with the NCAA to televise women's sports, including the women's basketball tournament, and ESPN, ESPN2, and various regional cable networks are expanding regular-season coverage of women's hoops. Another promising sign is that schools have increased the number of scholarships being offered for women's sports.

The trends are positive, and as other factors fall into place the day may come when women's athletic teams will be viewed in the same light as the men's clubs, and players such as Connecticut stars Rebecca Lobo and Kara Wolters will become household names of the same caliber as UCLA's Ed O'Bannon and Arkansas' Corliss Williamson. Among those factors:

● **Demographics and female decision-**

**Lobo's UConn team captivated the nation, but most women collegians play in relative obscurity.**





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**making.** There are more women in the marketplace, dictating the flow of consumer dollars, than ever before. There are more women than ever before making executive decisions in corporate America, in a position to determine where budgets for commercial advertising will be spent. There are women serving as athletic directors for major college sports programs. As women move in increasing numbers into these positions of authority, we can expect more awareness of and sensitivity to the issue of gender equity in sports.

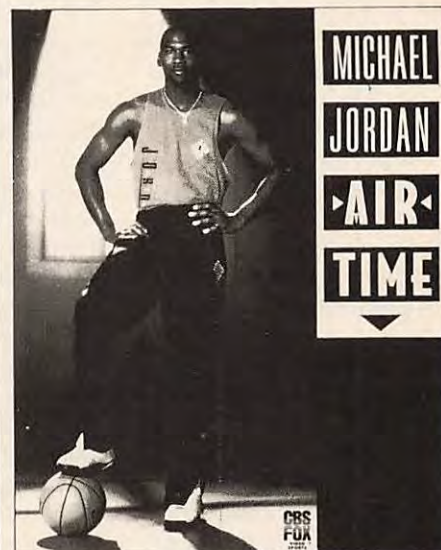
● **Better games.** It's getting more difficult for skeptics to claim women's sports aren't as competitive or exciting as men's. Anyone who watched the UConn-Tennessee basketball title game could see women who played with speed, grace, quickness, and agility. As Louisiana Tech coach Leon Barmore told the Scripps-Howard news service, "We've got girls who can play the game. They shoot, they score, they play a hard, fast game that people like."

● **More young fans and players.** Xavier University recently began a "Hoops Club" in conjunction with its women's basketball program, in which children in first through eighth grades can pay \$15 to get a season ticket, a T-shirt, a media guide, and the opportunity to attend special events on campus. Southwest Missouri State formed the "Fast Break Club," in which coaches and athletic department personnel spend an extensive amount of time in the community to push interest in the game. As girls become interested in sports and begin playing at a younger age, the quality of competition at all levels will improve. Cultivating fans at an early age will intensify interest in the collegiate games and, perhaps one day, in professional women's leagues.

As with any social movement geared to achieve equality, there is a natural impatience among supporters of women's athletic programs. They want full and total parity now. But most successful social movements are evolutionary in nature; they develop over time. And this particular evolution will be an economic one. As women's athletics begin to show a consistent ability to garner large crowds and respectable television ratings, support will increase. The trends are in the right direction. ■

STEDMAN GRAHAM's commentary on sports and society appears regularly.

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## Is Dennis Rodman worth the trouble he causes?

*OPINIONS ON DENNIS RODMAN, THE NBA'S FULL-TIME CHIA PET AND PART-TIME REBOUNDING MACHINE, are as varied as the colors of his hair. On those nights when Rodman does what he does best—clean the glass and stick to his man like Madonna—he is one of the premier power forwards in the NBA. But skipped practices and a motorcycle accident and bad-hair days and refusals to take part in huddles (sorry, there's only space for the short list) fray the nerves of the players, coaches, and team officials around him. So it was for the San Antonio Spurs in the 1995 NBA playoffs. The Midwest Division champions had a league-best 62-20 record in the regular season, only to be sabotaged at least in part by Rodman's antics in the playoffs. Afterward, club honchos were asking a question others had faced before: Is Rodman worth the hassle?*



**Dick Versace**, Turner Sports basketball analyst and former Indiana Pacers coach, thinks that, on balance, Rodman is a plus for an NBA team. **Doug Collins**, coach of the Detroit Pistons, believes he's simply too disruptive. The two spoke with PAUL LADEWSKI.



**Versace:** If the goal is to win an NBA championship, I'd want Dennis Rodman on my team. Why wouldn't you want the best rebounder in basketball, not to mention one of the best one-on-one defenders at power forward? Rebounding and defense are what win championships, and in Rodman you get both in very large doses. And remember: Rodman has been on championship teams before, so he understands what it takes to win.

**Collins:** First you have to consider the personalities on your team. If Rodman is the most dominant one, you're going to have problems. When he was with the Detroit Pistons, he was more under control and wasn't looking for the spotlight at that stage of his career. The Pistons had very strong-willed, strong-minded, physically tough guys who would not allow Rodman to set his own agenda. If you have guys like Bill Laimbeer, Rick Mahorn, and Isiah Thomas to police him, Rodman can become a significant piece—but how many teams have that kind of strong leadership?

**Versace:** I can't deny that Rodman has made some mistakes in his career. It's as if he has tried to use his basketball career as a vehicle to further an acting career. I don't know if he wants to become the next Wesley Snipes or whatever, but judging by the amount of publicity he has received, he has accomplished what he set out to do. This guy isn't just on the front page of the sports section in *USA Today*—he's on the front page of the entire newspaper.

Dennis Rodman will do whatever is necessary to be noticed, even if it means changing his hair color every day. The fact is, the media in this country have bought his act. Yet if people could spend some time with him off the court, they'd discover what a good guy he really is.

**Collins:** The players have to be the guys who control him; otherwise the coach is put in the crossfire. In that case, the question becomes, are you winning the battle and losing the war? And people begin to take sides. That was the basic issue for the Spurs throughout the playoffs. Why sit Rodman

down now and win the battle but lose the war? That shouldn't even be a question. It's an impossible position for management to be in.

**Versace:** Sure, Rodman is going to create a few problems along the way, but I would be confident that some sort of compromise could be struck between him and management. As a coach, I would have to sit down with Rodman and discuss rules about practices and the like. I thought Spurs general manager Gregg Popovich handled the situation very well. Some people say the team had a different set of rules for Rodman, but that wasn't the case. For the most part, the rules were the same for everybody. And let us not forget that the Spurs finished with the best regular-season record in the league.

**Collins:** The talk out of San Antonio was that the national media didn't see the Spurs every day, so when they did they made a big deal out of Rodman's behavior. The players said they lived with him on a day-to-day basis and were used to him. Well, I don't think you ever get used to it. When

you count on somebody and he lets you down, it has a demoralizing effect. Is he going to be here today? Is he going to practice? Is he going to do what we want him to do? As a player, you don't want to tolerate that type of uncertainty because it puts you and your coaches in a tough spot.

**Versace:** Mostly, coaches want players not only for their skills, but for their attitudes on the court. I defy anyone to say that they've seen Dennis Rodman not spill his guts on the court at any time in his career. The guy has a fierce desire to win—the kind of thing his teammates would do well to emulate. At no time last season did I hear any of the Spurs suggest that his on-court demeanor was a detriment to the team.

**Collins:** Rodman's teammates said most of the right things, but do they really feel that way? It stands to reason that at least some of them resent all that went on with Rodman, especially in the playoffs. How do you suppose power forwards J.R. Reid and Terry Cummings feel knowing they're ready to perform but



not knowing what their role is because Rodman is on a different agenda from day to day?

**Versace:** Look, if your primary objective is to win an NBA championship, why would anybody not want to play with a guy who is good for 15 to 20 rebounds every game? Not only that, but when he does get the ball, he's going to give it back to you so you can shoot it. How many players can you say that about in the league? Say what you will about his relationship with Madonna and his hair and his motorcycle, but when he takes the floor, the only thing on Dennis Rodman's mind is to win.

**Collins:** The guy has offensive skills, but he refuses to take advantage of them, and that attitude hurts his team.

Championship-caliber teams almost always have five guys on the floor who have to be guarded. When you play four-on-five on the offensive end most of the time—as Rodman's teams do—you're eventually going to lose.

Dennis Rodman has a great talent: He can rebound the ball like no one else. At the same time, he has become selfish in that he is concerned *only* about rebounding. For instance, he won't rotate defensively. When you're trapping or double-teaming a screen-roll or the post, you may need him to rotate and cover a guy.

**Versace:** Opponents sag off Rodman more out of respect for David Robinson than because of his own ineffectiveness. When that happens, Rodman goes to the basket, where he's in position for a lay-in. Obviously, his strength lies in the paint. How many power forwards shoot the ball consistently from the 18- to 20-foot range, anyway?

**Collins:** You have to ask yourself, are we better with him or better without him? Are we willing to put up with the distractions? Unless you're a part of the whole phenomenon, you don't realize how much time has to be devoted to the problems Rodman creates almost every single day. Is it worth it to spend an hour on one player and 15 minutes on the other 11 guys, who also require attention? ■



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## Culture

### Picture-Perfect

WHEN BRUCE BECKER HEARD the station break on a tape of the radio broadcast of Game 7 of the 1985 World Series—9 p.m.—he started keeping time. Seven minutes later he heard George Brett tie a Series record with his fourth consecutive Game 7 hit, and Becker knew what to paint on the score-

board by love of the game, but his subject matter takes marketability into account. "I only do people I like and admire," Becker says, "and I knew Brett would sell. The key hit in Game 7 in '85 was a two-run home run by Daryl Motley. Who's going to buy a picture of Motley? It had to be Brett, and it just so happened that he tied a Series record."

On a visit to Kansas City he was able to do on-site research for the drawing—an important fact, given the authenticity and realism Becker and Goff strive for. The Brett painting doesn't just try to capture the impression of that

played on the outfield's rotating billboard at 9:07 p.m.; he asked the Lee Jeans company for samples of stitching used in 1985 ads; and he pored over videotapes of Brett to learn the brand of shoes he wore, if he had a long-sleeve sweatshirt under his uniform that night, and even the height of his stirrups.

Becker needed about 400 hours, squeezed into his parish schedule, to paint the Brett scene. On this project he was lucky because there were no deaths, weddings, or crises to handle; he says while doing the Schilling piece he was swamped with ministerial duties. (Perhaps counseling distraught Phillies fans after that heart-breaking Series?)

Becker is one of a group of artists Goff works with. The publisher began to focus on baseball in 1986, with prints and calendars featuring works by Andy Jurinko, Bill Purdom, and Bill Feldman. His company, Bill Goff Inc. [PO Box 977, Kent, CT 06757; (203) 927-1411] has published more than 100 baseball prints; it recently did its first hockey piece

and plans to expand into other sports.

Goff attributes the healthy sales of the baseball lithographs to the popularity of the game. For his part, Becker contends that "baseball has a nostalgia and mythical quality that other sports just don't have."—Jon Caroulis

## Trends

### Sometimes the Numbers Do Lie

TY COBB NO LONGER HAS 4,191 hits. Cap Anson won three batting titles—but topped the league in

average only twice. King Kelly batted .322 in 1887, not .394.

Those are just three of the players whose career statistics have been revised by the editors of the fourth edition of *Total Baseball* (Viking, \$59.95), the newly crowned official encyclopedia of Major League Baseball. "The various controversies are really part of historical inquiry," says *Total Baseball* co-editor John Thorn. "If someone were to find today that Napoleon Bonaparte was 6'2", would we hush it up, or would we deal with it?"

But this isn't war, it's more important. It's baseball, a game so crazy for statistics that some numbers—714; 2,130; 190; 56—need no matching name. What happens when someone comes along to disturb the old order?

Cobb retired in 1928 with 4,191 hits, a record that stood for more than 50 years. However, baseball historians recently discovered that a game Cobb played in 1910 had been entered in the record books twice, which gave him two extra hits. The current edition of *Total Baseball* corrects the error; Cobb is listed with 4,189 hits.

"We are people who are dedicated only to the truth, and when we find errors in a 1910 batting record we have to report it," Thorn says. "We shouldn't be the wise guy and take away Ty Cobb's batting average from him. We correct his number, but the compromise that we struck was to permit people who went to their graves thinking they won their [batting] championship to keep their championship."

While MLB and *Total Baseball*'s editors agreed, the compromise was nixed by the staff of *The Baseball Encyclopedia*, which published its first edition in 1969 and formerly was the "official encyclopedia" of the game. Jeanine Bucek, director of sports books for *The Baseball Encyclopedia*'s publisher, Macmillan, says MLB wanted "to handle things in ways we didn't want to." Thus *The Baseball Encyclopedia* lost the official seal of approval.

What about 4,191? "It is a magical number," says Michael Bernstein, vice president of business development and new ventures for



You might say Becker, a minister, shows a religious devotion to detail in his art.

board for his 20-by-39½-inch watercolor of the scene.

A Presbyterian minister in Philadelphia, Becker painted as a hobby until he saw a 1991 exhibit by Bill Goff—the premier publisher of baseball art lithographs in the country—that did not contain a scene from Philadelphia's old Connie Mack Stadium. On a lark, Becker sent his "Connie Mack All-Stars" painting to Goff; to his surprise, Goff accepted it and asked for more.

Becker's works chronicle specific milestones in a player's or a franchise's history—for instance, Nolan Ryan's 1975 no-hitter for the California Angels and Curt Schilling's final pitch in Game 5 of the 1993 World Series for Becker's hometown Phillies. His art may be

Game 7 moment; it recreates the scene down to the most minute detail, from the height of the water in the outfield fountain to the shade of dirt in the on-deck circle. "I get excited about the insignias on caps, logos on shoes, folds in the clothes," Becker says. "Everybody takes photos of the home plate area and first base, but who shoots the upper right field stands? Getting those details is difficult."

Becker struggled to find the exact position of the Royals (now Ewing M. Kauffman) Stadium flagpole, which was moved from left to right field, and of the neon hotel sign visible beyond the center field wall. He interviewed stadium personnel to determine which advertisements were dis-





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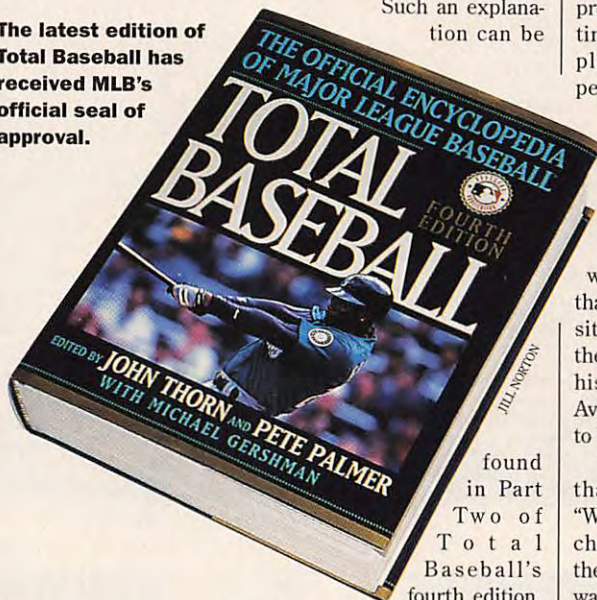
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Major League Baseball Properties. "But if it's a number that was arrived at in error and we can determine the correct number, we need to provide the fans with an explanation."

Such an explanation can be

The latest edition of Total Baseball has received MLB's official seal of approval.



found in Part Two of Total Baseball's fourth edition,

in a chapter titled "The History of Major League Baseball Statistics." The editors' decision to offer a rationalization is the main reason MLB switched its endorsement to Total Baseball.

"The people in charge of [The Baseball Encyclopedia] undertook a methodology to determine career statistics that resulted in numerous changes to players' career stats," Bernstein says. "Three years ago that issue surfaced, and former commissioner Fay Vincent said at the time, 'You might want to explain to the fans why changes were being made.' That didn't come about."

Bucek isn't worried about losing the stamp of approval. "In this day and age, something with the Major League Baseball logo doesn't mean much," she says.

Both books make revisions with new editions. The Baseball Encyclopedia, for instance, listed Honus Wagner with 3,415 hits in the 1969 edition, 3,430 in the 1985 book, and 3,418 in the 1990 edition. (According to the latest Total Baseball, Wagner has 3,415 hits.) The discrepancy occurred because Macmillan's research, based primarily on newspaper boxscores and game reports, did not count protested games in player data. However, the players' stats did count, even though the

games did not. Wagner was involved in three protested games.

Total Baseball has done an occasional flip-flop, too. Co-editor Pete Palmer says that in the book's third edition he used the present-day rule to determine batting champions, which is that a player needs 3.1 plate appearances per game scheduled for

his team. In the past, however, the minimum was set by official at-bats, rather than plate appearances. In 1954 Ted Williams had more than 500 plate appearances, but he walked so often—136 times—that he failed to garner the requisite official at-bats to qualify for the batting crown that year. Still, his .345 average topped Bobby Avila's .341. Palmer gave the title to Williams.

"I shouldn't have done that—that was wrong," Palmer says. "What we did for this edition was change to agree with whatever the rules were at the time. There was a 400 at-bat rule at that time." The current edition of Total Baseball has been updated to reflect the change; Avila, who had 555 at-bats to Williams' 386, is the 1954 batting champ.

"I like the numbers—sometimes I even love the numbers," Thorn says. "But the stories are really what the game's about. It's the symbolic value of Pete Rose getting his 4,192nd hit. We are not in the position of saying that Pete Rose broke Ty Cobb's record three days earlier."

Rose's hit total? It's 4,256. For now.—Carrie Muskat

## Law

## Spotlight on the Sidelines

THERE'S MORE LABOR STRIFE in professional sports, but it's coming from a most unlikely quarter. In an effort to improve their working conditions by negotiating a new employment contract, the Buffalo Jills, cheerleaders for the NFL's Buffalo Bills, have formed a union. If they're successful, cheerleading squads from around the NFL—and from other professional leagues as well—could join the bandwagon.



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maybe.

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Where it all begins.



Unlike most NFL cheerleading squads, the Jills are owned not by the parent team, but by a private corporation. At the time of the union's establishment the Jills were owned by Buffalo-area busi-

nessman Andrew Gerovac. (Attempts to reach Gerovac for this article were unsuccessful.)

Members of the squad describe the events leading to the creation of the union as a series of griev-

ances with management. "We got so tired of hitting our head against the wall," says Erin McCormack, a three-year veteran of the Jills. "They didn't respect what we had to say."

One issue was Gerovac's insistence that the Jills make personal appearances in bars, often late at night in skimpy uniforms, without an escort or other security. "There were a lot of drunken men who were being very suggestive," says McCormack. Nancy Bates, the president of the union, adds: "We would be in the hotel lounge doing unpaid appearances. It was embarrassing, and it wasn't a proper image for us."

Bates also says Gerovac failed to provide a safe place to practice before games and other events: "We had to practice in a hotel banquet room, and we were doing back flips," as well as other dangerous stunts.

The Jills had to pay their own way to the four Super Bowls in which the Bills appeared; McCormack estimates each Super Bowl trip cost her about \$500. She and Bates suggest that traveling and seeing the professional manner in which other squads at the Super Bowl were treated helped give the Jills the impetus to improve their situation. "The captains and co-captains took control," McCormack says. "We met with Andy [Gerovac]. He humored us. I don't think he ever felt we would get to this point."

The Jills and Gerovac sought a resolution before the National Labor Relations Board. The NLRB sided with the cheerleaders and allowed the Jills to form their union. On February 23, the National Football League Cheerleaders Association was born.

Shortly thereafter management ran an ad that sought to replace Jills choreographer Debbie Prieur, an original signer of the NLRB



Cheerleaders of the world, unite! The Jills union could herald a revolution.

RECK STEWART/ALLSPORT

## My Life

### Shoot His Age? No Problem

AS IF GOLF WEREN'T FRUSTRATING enough, along comes Harley Potter to remind you of everything you're doing wrong. Off the tee, he's consistently in the fairway. He doesn't lose his temper, never has thrown a club in anger. He bets, but only modestly. Recently he pocketed \$11 in a game of best ball with his Wednesday morning golf buddies. And he regularly shoots his age.

Harley Potter is 103.

Potter was born in 1892 and spent most of his life in St. Louis, working as an office manager for a car dealership. He retired in 1974, and eventually he found that his healthy hobby of walking had turned boring. "The only place to walk was a high school track, and that was just walking around in circles," he says. A local nine-hole golf course promised a more interesting stroll, so at age 92 Potter bought a membership, before he had even picked up a golf club.

When he did, improvement came quickly. He now consistently shoots around 100—his best game is a 92—and in May he competed in the U.S. National Senior Sports Classic in San Antonio. He was by far the oldest competitor, and he took the golfing gold medal in the 100-and-over division. (Truth be told, he was the only competitor in the bracket, and his score ballooned to 340 for 36 holes. "We had a little more sand and a lot more water than he's used to," says Jess Hawkins, golf director at the Tapatio Springs Country Club and Resort course.)

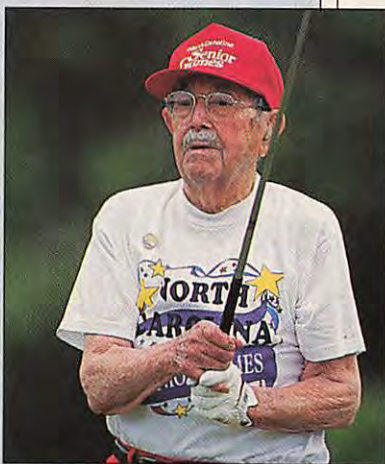
Living now in Winston-Salem, N.C., with his daughter, Leta Duffin, Potter plays with his Wednesday seniors group and at least once a week with his

daughter. He recently began using a golf cart—a concession to Leta, who expends her energy as a teacher—but it's easy to see why he's lived into his 100s.

"He's never had any vices, never used tobacco and alcohol," says Kenneth McKeown, a spring chicken of 60 who golfs with Potter on Wednesdays. "He told me alfalfa tablets and quinine tablets are two keys to his longevity." Adds Duffin: "He's an even-tempered man. I've never even seen my father angry."

Ah, but what of the time a few years ago, when a raccoon made menacing advances at him? Duffin says her father "hit him with his driver first, then the 9-iron. He didn't kill him, just hurt him a little bit so he'd run off."

That might be the last time Potter finished a hole with a driver and a niblick; distance, he says, is the weakest part of his game. And fairway irons remain a pesky problem.



RECK RICKMAN

Out on the links, Potter paces his age group—in fact, he is his age group.

But Potter doesn't obsess on the shortcomings, or on anything else, says his daughter. "He has always said he doesn't worry about yesterday because it's gone or about tomorrow because it's not here. Just today."

—Noah Liberman



A man wearing a light-colored cowboy hat and a red long-sleeved shirt is leaning against a large, weathered wooden log. He has a cigarette in his mouth and is looking towards the camera. His right leg is bent, and he is wearing a bright yellow protective boot cover over his right leg and a dark cowboy boot. The background is dark, making the man and the log stand out.

# Marlboro

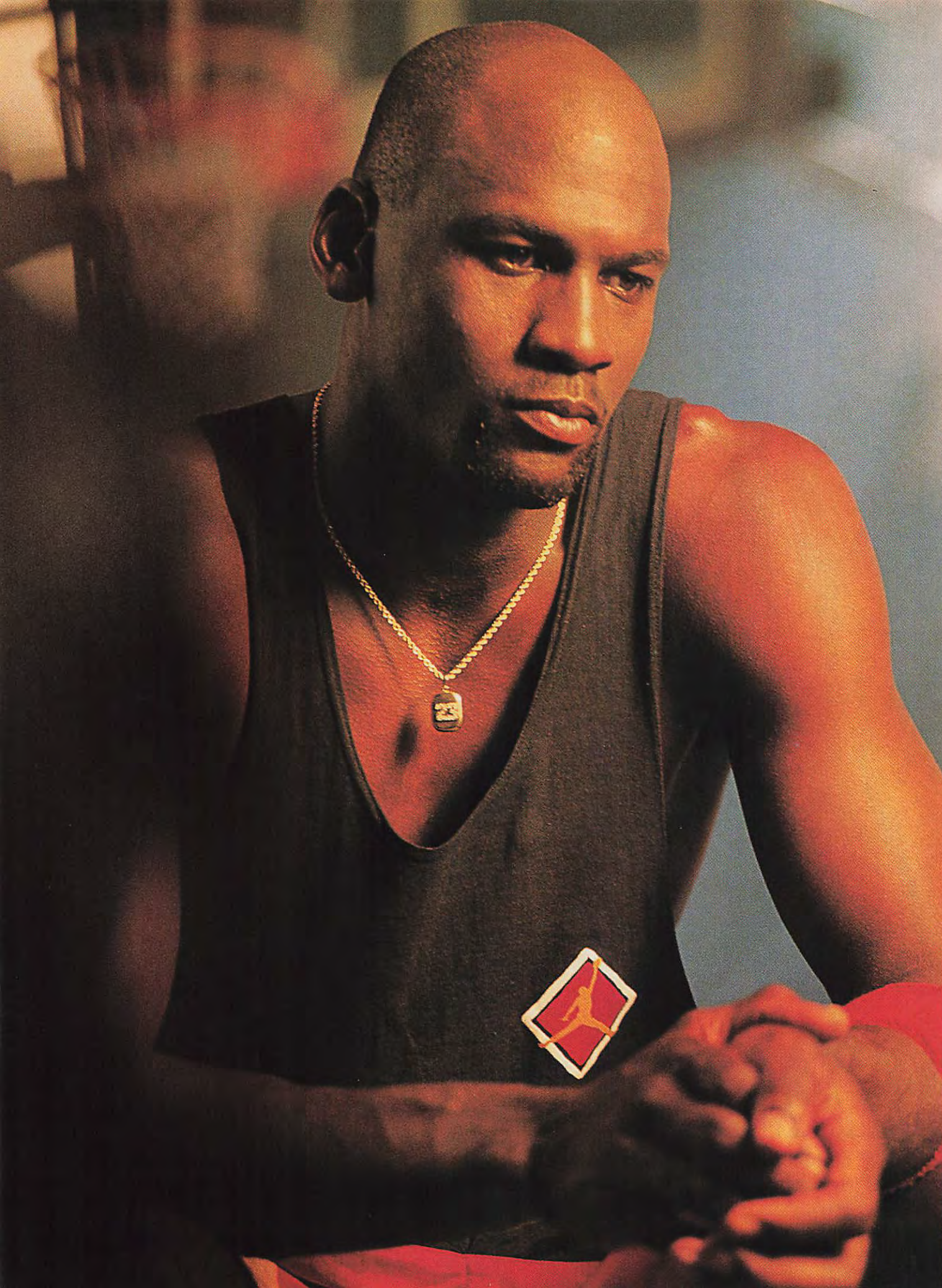
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**W**E ARE SITTING QUIETLY in the cavernous visitors locker room at the United Center in Chicago, waiting for the arrival of our interview subject: Michael Jordan. It's the onset of the NBA playoffs, and the Chicago Bulls have just concluded a rare day of practice at their arena.

The calm suddenly is interrupted as the door flies open. Jordan darts inside, barely avoiding the crush of media waiting to interview him. The scene is almost comical: Reporters fight to follow him into the room while he tries to stave them off, explaining his previous commitment. As he eases his lanky frame onto a small chair, he says gruffly, "OK, let's get this

are being made, the talk turns to...shoes. Not the swooshes, not the new Air Jordan models with the patent-leather trim, but dress shoes. A friend of Jordan's revealed that the Bulls star has nearly a thousand pairs of street shoes, and the thought that immediately comes to mind is, why? Jordan's response is simple: "I have this thing for shoes," he says, shrugging sheepishly in the manner he made famous after he had scorched the Portland Trail Blazers with his NBA Finals-record sixth three-pointer of the first half in Game 1 in 1992. Compulsive about dress shoes? Learned something new already.

We speak with Jordan for nearly an hour. Twelve minutes of the interview is aired on ESPN. The perpetual lament in the television business is that much of the great material is left on the cutting room floor—but not this time. **INSIDE SPORTS** picked up

his face—it's possible to observe a Jordan who's different from the persona he offers to the public.

He's not simply the icon, the mesmerizing talent who played just 17 regular-season games in 1995 and still received 12 votes for the NBA most valuable player award. He seems rather normal, quite relaxed, thoughtful, and animated. Emotion creeps into his voice when he talks about his father, James, who was murdered in 1993; he wears an impish grin when he tells stories about his teammates; he has a look of defiance when he is questioned about his motives. He'll needle you and play a little verbal volleyball, yet he always remains in control. That is the essence of Jordan: a flair for independence.

So it make sense when he says he considers himself his own boss, a mere partner with the Bulls, Nike, McDonald's, or Gatorade in the phenomenon that is Michael Jordan. On this day, as he stretches out in his warm-up suit, preparing to go from one job, that of NBA basketball player, to another as a businessman in his downtown Chicago office, we ask him to talk about a variety of subjects. Always one to embrace a challenge, Jordan seems to revel in discussing off-court matters—and not just the shoes.

**INSIDE SPORTS:** What do you think is your hold on the public? They want a part of your every action, every word, every decision. It's an obsession.

**MICHAEL JORDAN:** It's probably because of you guys [the media]. The exposure I get, my connections in the corporate world, my personality, I guess. You never really know, and you can't create it. I can't give you a definition in terms of why. It just happened.

It came out in 1984. I went through the Olympics. Then I came to a major-market city that I'd never been to before in my life, and I played basketball like nobody played before. The public attached themselves to me. How did I maintain it? I don't know. I've been myself ever since, and I've formed associations with corporations that have marketed me in that same light. Somehow it's blended. I can't give you an explanation for it, really.

**IS:** In June 1992, during the Dream Team practices, you reportedly told a writer: "I'm going to shock the world. I'm going to walk away from basketball and take up baseball." You were a year ahead of schedule in

*Michael Jordan*

# Airing It Out

*The world's most famous athlete talks frankly about fame, power, and his responsibility to the public*

**By ANDREA KREMER**

over." The interviewer shoots him a dirty look, and they both laugh. The challenge of interviewing the world's most overexposed athlete has begun.

While last-second technical adjustments

the unaired, uncut Jordan version for the viewers...or rather, the readers.

Few people outside of his family, the coterie of friends he grew up with in North Carolina, his golfing buddies, and a few cronies in the media really know Michael Jordan. He has worked long and hard to cultivate his multimillion-dollar, Teflon-coated image. Yet when you sit and talk with him—without the off-duty Chicago policemen guarding him, without the dozens of microphones and tape recorders shoved in



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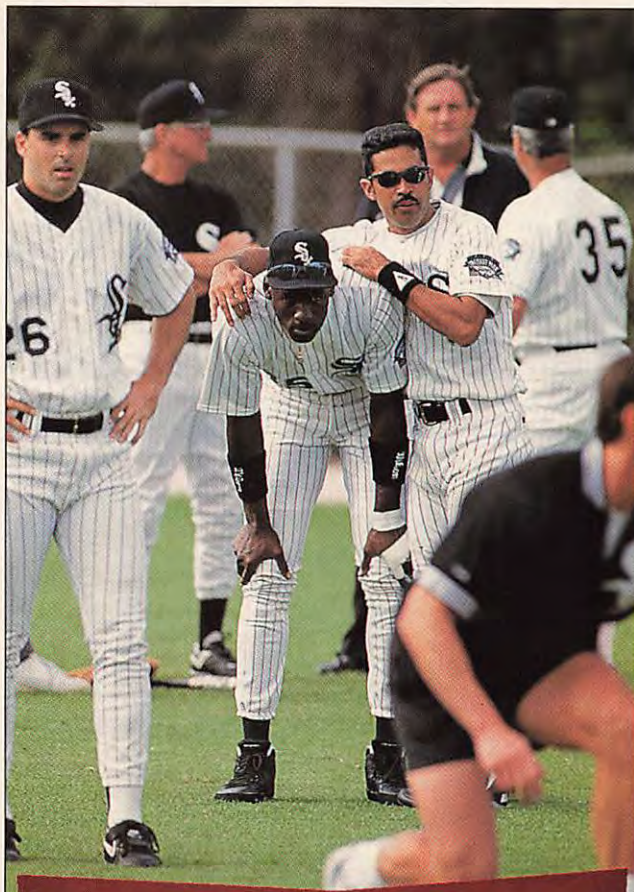
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**JORDAN**



JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT

*"I liked the atmosphere in baseball. We  
did everything in groups. You get a  
sense of people and the fun they have."*

saying that. How premeditated was the  
baseball move?

**MJ:** It was coming. It was coming. I wanted  
to do it.

**IS:** You had a plan to go to baseball all  
along?

**MJ:** I had a plan to give myself an opportu-  
nity to play baseball. That was a dream my  
father and I concocted after the first  
[Bulls] championship. I knew I was getting  
up in years, and if I was going to do it, I bet-  
ter do it now; I better take this opportunity.

It was a seemingly great opportunity,  
great timing for me to do it. I'd won my  
third championship, and I had a tough time  
trying to find the motivation to move for-  
ward. With the death of my father, it  
seemed to be the right time to make that  
choice.

**IS:** What did you like best about baseball?

**MJ:** The best time for me was after the  
game, when the guys are sitting around  
and drinking beer or whatever, and they  
talk about the game they just played—that  
locker-room atmosphere. We went out to

had when I wasn't around—but I'd like to  
instill for next year and for the coming  
years to just relax and enjoy the life and  
atmosphere and the opportunities we have,  
because at some point in time you may  
have an injury and all of that is gone, and  
you're going to miss it. I think it helps you  
walk away from the game easier when the  
time comes if you've been in an atmos-  
phere that has been fun.

**IS:** Did you have any fears returning to  
basketball?

**MJ:** Yeah, some fears, some nervousness. I  
hadn't played against the competition you  
play in the NBA. I played against my  
minor league buddies, and I played at the  
athletic club. But when you're talking about  
playing with the best players in the world,  
and you hadn't played in two years, you had  
to be tentative, you had to be nervous.

**IS:** What makes you think the factors that  
contributed to your leaving basketball the  
first time aren't going to develop again?

**MJ:** I won't let it affect me. And a little bit  
has to do with the public's desire to have

dinner, we did every-  
thing in groups. You  
get a better sense of  
people and the fun  
they have at that level.

**IS:** That sounds like it  
was a new experience  
for you. In the NBA  
after a game, every-  
body bolts, don't they?

**MJ:** I know. It's done,  
it's gone. What I'm try-  
ing to instill in this  
Chicago Bulls team is  
that time with each  
other is precious, and  
we should try to enjoy  
each other. We're  
going to be together  
for eight months, so  
why not have a good  
time? Why not hang  
out? Don't rush out to  
beat the media, but sit  
back and say what  
you've got to say. Let's  
enjoy the time we're  
going to be together  
for the little time we  
are together.

**IS:** Are guys doing  
that more on the Bulls  
now?

**MJ:** I'm not going to  
push them for that—I  
m not in a place to  
push them out of the  
normal routines they



Those who appreciate quality enjoy it responsibly.



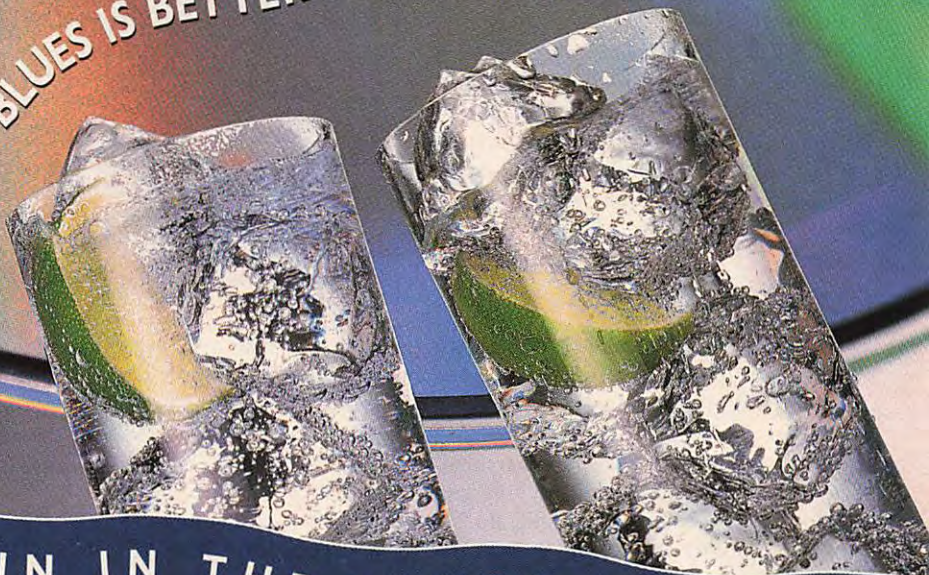
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me back. You don't realize your importance until you're gone. You don't realize how much a person means to you until he's dead and gone.

It didn't seem as if the same importance was there when I left as when I came back. I felt wanted. The importance was there when I came back because they missed that for two years.

**IS:** The importance of the game to you?

**MJ:** No, the importance of what you mean to the game, or to your team, or to the city, or whatever. It was more evident when you're away from it for two years.

**IS:** Why would that ever be in doubt for you, as loved as you are, especially in Chicago?

**MJ:** I'm not saying it was in doubt for me, but you don't feel it as much until you experience both. When I retired, it wasn't because I didn't feel that. It was because I needed a change, or maybe it was because the situation just wasn't right for me. I needed to get away. In doing that and then coming back, it's a different warmth now, a different welcome, in a sense.

**IS:** Was ego involved?

**MJ:** No, it wasn't an ego thing for me. When I walked away I had a purpose for walking away. It wasn't to make them want me again.

I'm doing what I love, actually. Not to say I haven't done it in the past. Baseball was like an escape—like when you work for so long, then you go on a vacation, and when you come back home everything looks a little bit fresher.

**IS:** Bulls coach Phil Jackson and some of your friends say you're different now: more calm, more at peace. Do you see yourself that way?

**MJ:** I feel it. I feel relaxed, I feel fresher. I feel older, but I still feel I'm capable of doing what I've always done. Some of the tension has been relieved a little bit over the 18 months I was away from basketball. In a sense, I wanted to enjoy myself, and I wasn't really enjoying myself 18 months ago—away from the game, either. Now I enjoy it a lot more.

**IS:** What happens next season?

**MJ:** I get to experience this for a full year. I get to go through the full season. And I kind of missed it.

I don't really like the 82-game season, but I'm going into it with the open mind to just enjoy the season, do my job, come home, spend time with the kids, do whatever, but enjoy that whole season once again.

**IS:** Are you going to have some sort of arrangement to ensure that you won't get burned out on the regular season?

**MJ:** No, I'm going to play the 82-game season. The challenge is to find the new players that you haven't faced, and the new players that present challenges.

**IS:** And to win back the scoring title?

**MJ:** That's not really an emphasis of mine. It may happen, but if that was an emphasis, I wouldn't have stopped after I got seven. I would have gone on to break Wilt Chamberlain's record.

**IS:** You mentioned the challenge of new players. What does that entail?

**MJ:** They don't know what I want to do—if I'm going to score, if I'm going to pass, if I want to go for the steal. They don't know if I want to try to score 100 points, or if I'm going to score 20 points. They don't know my aggressive attitude before the game,

ings among people who are trying to do business together. I don't want to point fingers because I respect every athlete who plays basketball.

**IS:** There was reaction to your comments from other NBA players, though.

**MJ:** Certainly, and I'm pretty sure you guys [the media] had a lot to do with that, in terms of the way you position your questions. That's not the issue. The issue is, we've been given the opportunity to make a living playing a game that we played as kids, for nothing, by past NBA players—Julius Erving, Oscar Robertson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, George Mikan—all these players who *never* made the type of money we made, but acted like professionals.



*"I feel older, but I'm still capable of doing what I've always done. Some of the tension has been relieved."*

and you really can't determine it through the game. I've always played better in the second half [of a game], but sometimes I play hard in the first half *and* the second half, so you don't know. That gives me an advantage.

**IS:** When you returned to the NBA, you talked about the need to show some of the younger players about maintaining the love of the game. Who were you talking about?

**MJ:** I generalized it. I didn't single people out because I don't want to create bad feel-

That's all I'm saying. I'm not here to point fingers and say it's you or you. I said "we"—me, too. I'm part of this. We must conduct ourselves as businesspeople, because we're going to be viewed that way. Whenever the time comes to make money, we must do that in a way that's respectful.

**IS:** When you use the term "you guys," sometimes it sounds as if you're talking down to the media. Do you dislike the media? Haven't the media done a lot for you?

NATHANIEL S. BUTLER/NBA PHOTOS





JEANS THAT FIT YOUR LIFE.



**MJ:** I don't dislike the media, I respect them. But I think sometimes that respect is not reciprocated. And you've got bad apples in the group, you know.

If I really, truly did dislike the media, I wouldn't be talking to you. After Sam Smith wrote his book ["The Jordan Rules"], I wouldn't talk to any of the media. But I separate Sam from everybody else. I respect him—I even talk to him when he's with the group. I respect the media, and I try to give you honest answers. Not all the

the basketball court, it could mean a negotiation factor. But Jerry Reinsdorf didn't promise me a dime. David Stern didn't promise me anything, no special treatment.

There was no deal underneath the table. I'm pretty sure people find that hard to believe, because supposedly I had this leverage. If they were to sit there and say, "We don't have anything," I still would have come back because I love the game and I felt we could win a championship. That was

to sit here and say, "Clyde is making \$15 million"? I don't know. But if you asked me what I should be paid, I'd say enough to be the highest paid in the NBA. What is that? I don't know what that is.

**IS:** While you were gone Scottie Pippen was outspoken in his criticism of Bulls management and said he wanted to be traded. Would you trade him, bring in a power forward to complement you?

**MJ:** I would try to please him because I think he's one of the top three players in the league. I think Scottie understands his value, and I think Jerry Reinsdorf understands his value, and when the time comes, when there's no media to corrupt what's happening between the two of them, things will get taken care of—and I hope it does.

**IS:** What is your relationship with Pippen? Has it changed since your return?

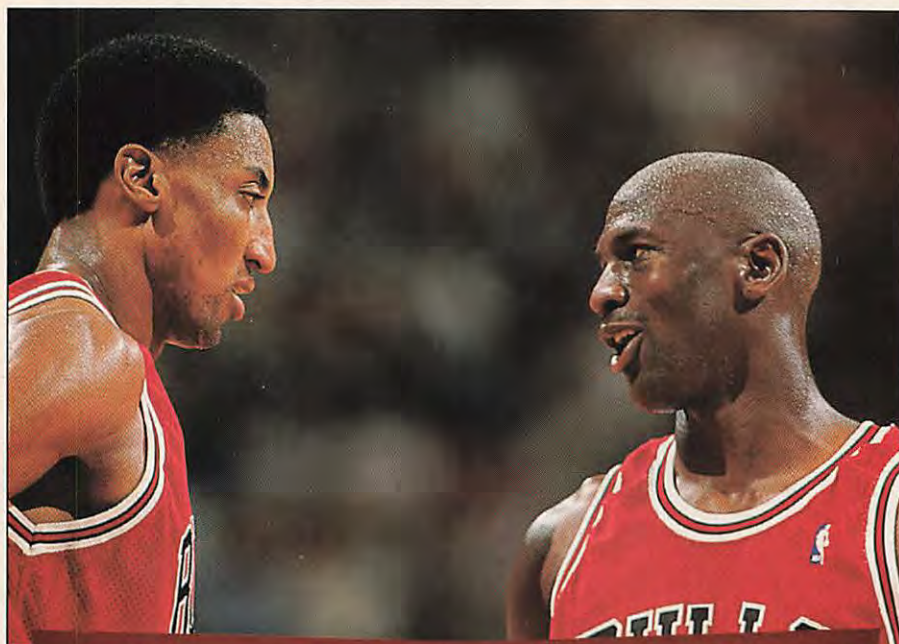
**MJ:** I think it's changed for the better. It was like a big brother and a little brother. You don't know how much a big brother takes care of his little brother until the big brother's gone and the little brother's got to step up and plug the holes. So I think it's a mutual understanding between us now, and I'm glad to be his teammate again. It takes some of the weight away from me, and we can blend and be much better as basketball players.

**IS:** While you were in baseball, you never really voiced an opinion on the labor problems that resulted in the players strike. Now that basketball could have labor problems, what stance might you take?

**MJ:** I'm in favor of the players. I believe it should be a hard stand for the players, for this soft salary cap. We should always have an opportunity to get our worth. If business is going good, we should always have an opportunity to share that business. Whenever that stand and whenever that fight comes about, Michael Jordan will be right there. Not really fighting for myself, because my income comes away from the basketball court. I'm fighting for the guys, the players like Danny Manning and Scottie Pippen who never really have had the opportunity to make the money that they deserve to make. What everyone's really trying to control here is the rookies driving up salaries, which should be looked at. That's an understandable issue. But to say that if a proven player cannot be able to make his true worth at the end of his career if he's capable of doing it, it's not fair.

**IS:** Jerry Reinsdorf also owns the Chicago White Sox, and he is considered one of the hard-line owners in baseball. Do you anticipate him being that way in basketball, too, if the labor negotiations reach a stalemate?

**MJ:** If so, I'm against Jerry Reinsdorf. I



*"Scottie is one of the top three players in the league. I think he and Jerry Reinsdorf understand his value."*

time—I can't tell you everything because you'll take it the wrong way—but I always try to. All I ask is the same type of respect.

**IS:** When you decided to return to the Bulls, you officially could not renegotiate your contract because of the labor situation between the NBA and the players. But was there any understanding or oral agreement with Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf—that you may own part of the team or part of the United Center one day?

**MJ:** None. None at all. For our own information, my attorneys asked about the [possible impact on television] ratings, and from a business aspect.

**IS:** What did you want to know?

**MJ:** The worth of Michael Jordan coming back to the game. No one could really determine it because everything was basically sold out. Tickets were basically sold out, TV packages are totally sold out, so no one could really determine it. We wanted to know because whatever we do away from

my biggest emphasis—that I wanted to play basketball.

**IS:** What do you deserve, for your contribution to this team, to the NBA, to the sport?

**MJ:** I don't know. I don't think anyone knows what my value is to the league, to this team, to the city of Chicago. One can speculate...

**IS:** If you get into a contract negotiation, what will you ask for?

**MJ:** Probably to be the highest-paid player in the NBA. What would that be?

**IS:** Do you mean a yearly basis? Don't Clyde Drexler and Patrick Ewing get balloon payments of \$8 million or \$9 million or something?

**MJ:** [Shrugs] I don't know. The last thing I do is worry about what everybody else is making.

**IS:** You just said you wanted to be the highest-paid player in the NBA.

**MJ:** Yeah, but that doesn't mean I know what these guys are making. I'm supposed



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respect Jerry as a businessman—but we must [respect each other] as businesspeople, because we're all partners in this business. So let's distribute this equally and fairly, and business will continue to be prosperous. When one side tries to be greedy and overtake the other, then you've got your baseball situation.

**IS:** You are one of the most influential and

alive]? But there are handguns. Until Congress or someone stops handguns, it's going to be an issue.

**IS:** Late last season Phil Jackson said, "Players in my locker room don't know about Bosnia, they don't know about Rwanda, they don't know about issues that go on in the world." Do you know what's going on in the world? Do you know about the bombing in Oklahoma City?

**MJ:** I follow those things. I get letters, tons and tons of letters, about different issues in the United States and all over the world. And I reply, I help out.

**IS:** They want your opinion on things?

**MJ:** They have financial needs, they want support, they want communication, and I do that, although I don't publicize it. I'm not seeking to be the ambassador of the United States.

I do whatever my heart feels, and I do it privately. But I'm not looking to run for president, I'm not looking to run for Congress, I'm not looking to run for office, so I don't have to publicize what I do. As long as you do it out of the kindness

of your heart, that's all that matters. If someone has to hold a gun to your back and make you do it, then you shouldn't be doing it.

**IS:** Have you ever experienced racism?

**MJ:** I'm pretty sure I have. Maybe not knowingly. I'm from the South, and I had some situations where I felt the tension.

**IS:** Enough that it would cause you to make a stand against things now, or not?

**MJ:** In what way? I don't understand where you're going with the question.

**IS:** Charles Barkley comes to mind—you're smiling already. Charles certainly speaks out about issues of racism. You never do. Does it have to do with your image being a certain way, or perceptions being different?

**MJ:** If I feel strongly about something, I speak out about it. And evidently Charles feels very strongly, and he speaks out. I'm not against that, and some of us share his

thoughts, and we may join in his conversation or his fight. If the issue here is to try to get me to step out or be more outspoken about certain issues, I'm not going to do that here. I'm going to do it when the opportunity presents itself, but I won't do it to the point where I'm looking for publicity.

**IS:** In the NFL, Reggie White has put together a number of prominent African-American athletes who he's trying to influence to take a stand against discrimination in the banking industry. Is that the kind of thing you feel prominent African-American men should be doing?

**MJ:** If that's their concern.

**IS:** Is it *your* concern?

**MJ:** It's my concern, yeah. I like to speak on issues when I know the facts. I cannot speak on issues that I'm guessing with. So if I'm involved in an issue where I feel it's a major problem—race or whatever—then I feel I must stand up and talk about it. But I'd be talking because I know the facts and the issues in front of me. I have a problem with talking about an issue that I don't know is factual. So don't confuse the two.

**IS:** I'm curious about the role of religion in sports. Why do athletes today seem to hang on to religion more strongly than ever?

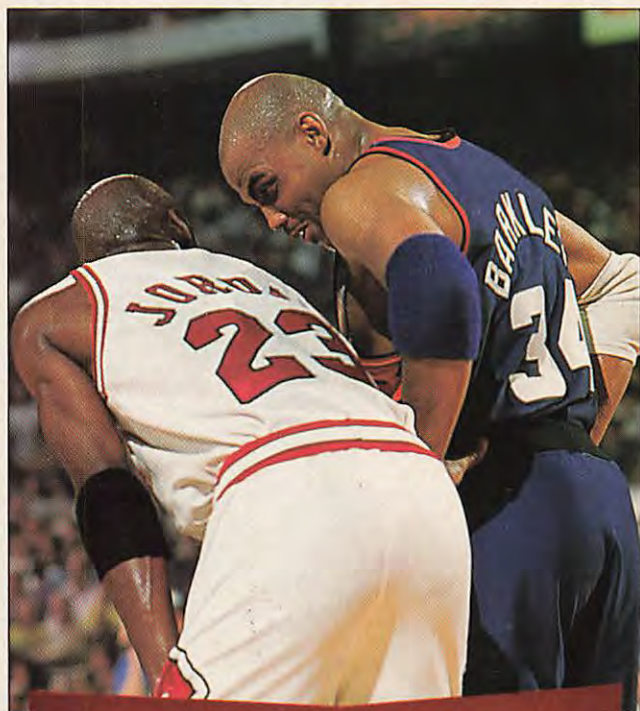
**MJ:** In sports you have the opportunity to express yourself as a human being through the game, through the athletic event. I think we feel obligated to give thanks to God for giving us that talent, that attitude, that mental approach to the event. The YMCA, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes—those are things that I can remember where I really got involved with religion. Everyone wanted to be a part of the FCA in high school, or even before then.

But far too often after the event, the athlete doesn't take that view to life in general. It isn't just for sports. It's for life in general.

**IS:** You've described the basketball court as the place you go to find answers. What are the questions you answer out there?

**MJ:** When I come off the basketball court, if I have problems, I can usually deal with them. Basketball frees my mind for two hours, for 12 minutes a quarter, to do what I truly, truly love to do—and that's play basketball. When I walk away, whatever problems I had going on the court, at least I have one solution. It may not be the right solution, but at least I have a solution to the problem. ■

ESPN correspondent ANDREA KREMER was based in Chicago when Michael Jordan led the Bulls to three consecutive NBA titles. She now lives in Los Angeles.



ANDREW D. BERNSTEIN/NBA PHOTOS

*"Charles feels very strongly, and he speaks out. If I share his thoughts, I'll join in his conversation."*

popular African-Americans in the country, yet we rarely hear you speak about issues beyond the sports world. Why don't you take a stand publicly on social issues, be the Muhammad Ali of your time?

**MJ:** I do. I just don't do it publicly. I do community service work. I support the Special Olympics. I've been involved in Special Olympics since I was 12 or 13 years old, back in Wilmington, N.C. I love that. I bring people to the games and let them feel normal—expose them to normal life.

**IS:** What about beyond your charitable work?

**MJ:** Why don't I speak out against handguns or something of that nature? I have controversial thoughts—pros and cons—about that which may not be interpreted the way I want them to be. And it's an issue I hold close to my chest because, yes, my father got killed by a handgun, and if they didn't have a handgun, would he still [be



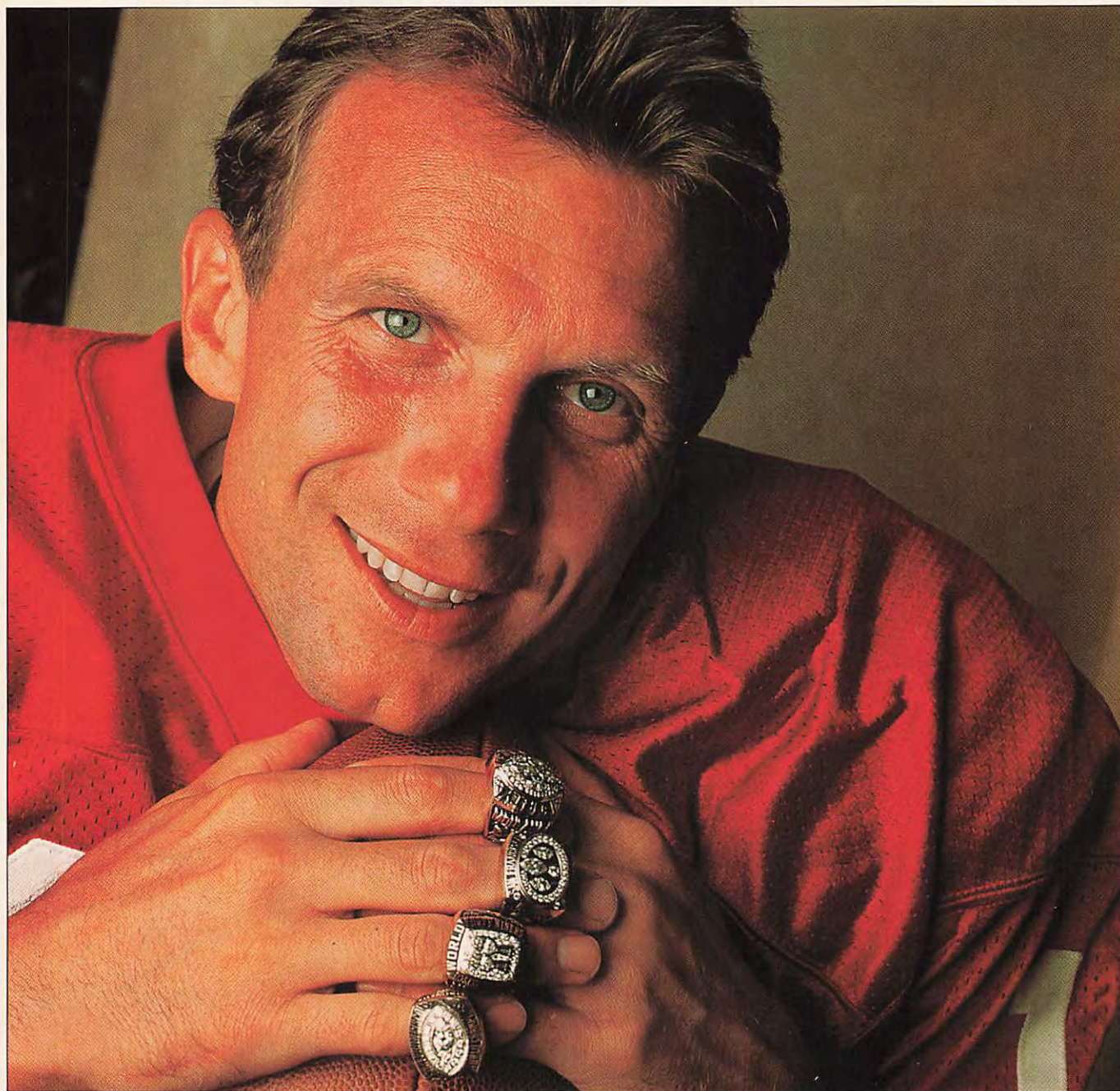


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Joe Montana

# Lord of th



PETER READ MILLER/NFL PHOTOS

**I**T WAS JANUARY 1, 1979. I WAS THE coach at Stanford, and we were flying home from Houston, where the night before in the Bluebonnet Bowl we had come back from a 22-0 deficit in the third quarter to beat Georgia 25-22. We were proud of ourselves; it was an amazing

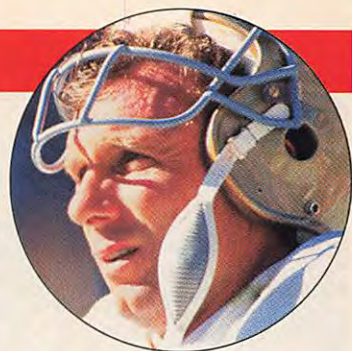
comeback. On that flight home we heard about what had happened in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day. Notre Dame had been behind by 22 midway through the *fourth* quarter, and a guy named Joe Montana brought them back to win.

At that point I'd made an agreement to

join the San Francisco 49ers as head coach, although the announcement wouldn't be made for a few days. I was beginning to get an idea of what I wanted to do with the team, and the quarterback position was near the top of the list. Even though the 49ers had a solid quarterback



# e Rings



***In retiring, Joe Montana moved beyond heroics and into legend. Here's a look back by the coach who shared his greatest victories***

**By BILL WALSH**

in Steve DeBerg, I knew we'd have to get another one.

In 1978 the 49ers had traded their first-round pick in the 1979 draft to the Buffalo Bills for O.J. Simpson. We had a pick in the second round and the Dallas Cowboys' pick in the third. Sam Wyche, an assistant with the 49ers at the time, was working with me to find a quarterback in the draft. We figured we could get what we needed with that third-round pick.

We liked Phil Simms from Morehead State. Since he was from a small school, I thought he'd be a sleeper. However, when we began to do our research we realized everybody was looking at Simms. We checked out other quarterbacks—Steve Fuller, for example—and tried to determine when each one would be selected.

Nobody seemed interested in Montana. People said his arm wasn't strong enough for the NFL. It didn't look as if he'd go earlier than the seventh round.

Five or six days before the draft we got our chance to see Joe in person. He was living in Los Angeles, and we worked him out. The first thing I saw in Montana were these incredibly quick feet, like Joe Namath's. He resembled Namath when he dropped back, and he threw the ball fine.

I didn't care if no one else was interested in him—I had enough confidence in my ability to work with quarterbacks to know what Montana could do. Yes, I was interested in Steve Dils, who had played quarterback for me at Stanford—but I knew he wasn't going to be a starter in the NFL. So I asked Tony Razzano, the head of scouting for the 49ers, and John Ralston, a team vice president at the time and a former college and pro coach, what they thought of Montana. They wanted him; so did John Brodie, the longtime 49ers quarterback, whom I consulted. I felt very comfortable taking Joe in the third round.

Of course, the way things worked out was great for Montana and for the 49ers. Who knows what he would have done without us, or what we would have done with-

out him? As it happened, the 49ers won four Super Bowls with Joe, and he turned out to be arguably the greatest quarterback in history.

When Montana arrived at training camp that year, he was slighter than I had thought—he probably weighed just 185 pounds—but he was nimble, very quick. I liked those quick feet, his competitiveness, his instincts, and the tight spirals he threw that were so easy to catch.

As a rookie Joe didn't play much behind DeBerg, who set NFL records that season for most passes and most completions. Steve couldn't move well enough to avoid the rush, though, and when he saw a guy coming he'd try to throw the ball away, which often cost us an interception. By the 1980 season that started to frustrate us, so we began to work Montana into the plan.

The key point came in a game at Candlestick Park against the New Orleans Saints in '80. We were down 35-7 at halftime, and Joe brought us back to win 38-35 in overtime. Although it was just Joe's second NFL season, that showed me he had what it takes to become a great player.

I traded DeBerg before the 1981 season. He was charismatic and popular with the players, and it just wasn't going to be possible for Joe to take over with DeBerg still there. Joe was our starter, and he was on his own. That season he took us to our first Super Bowl.

There has been much debate about where the credit for the 49ers' success should rest: with Montana, or with the offensive system we ran. The truth is, the success emerged from the coming together of a player and a system. The two fit perfectly. We drafted Joe because of his instincts, not because he fit the system. But within the system, there was room for Joe's abilities to expand. We adapted to him, and he learned and developed from us.

A common shortcoming in professional football is that the people who evaluate tal-

ent often draw general conclusions about quarterbacks. Instead of thinking, "What can that guy do for us?" they keep looking for somebody to meet their standards. They pegged Joe as a seventh-round pick because supposedly his arm wasn't strong enough and he was too small. Well, since Joe was drafted the league has been through hundreds of quarterbacks—plenty of them bigger and stronger than Montana.

This isn't bravado, but who knows what would have happened to Joe had he not come to the 49ers and to our system? We weren't the only team or only system under which he could have prospered, but knowing how other teams operate, Joe might well have been out of the NFL in a short while. He didn't have a Terry Bradshaw arm, he didn't have the college numbers, and some people doubted his consistency because at Notre Dame he'd be in one game and out the next.

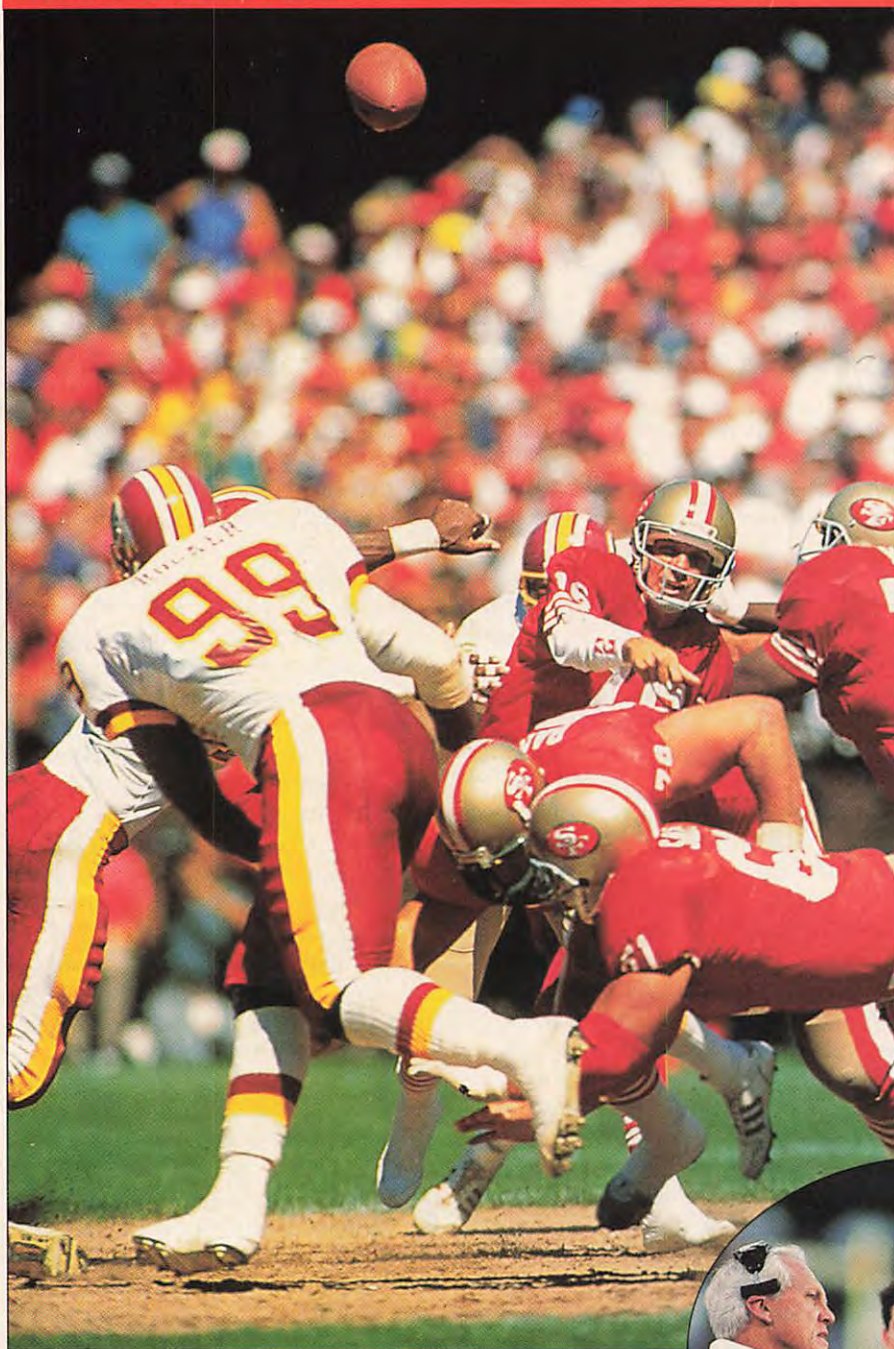
Who's to say what would have happened? My guess is he might have ended up in Canada, playing in the CFL.

On the other hand who's to say what would have happened to the 49ers had we not gotten Joe? DeBerg was doing a good job, but it wasn't a championship job. Joe took us to the championship level.

As an assistant coach I had worked with Kenny Anderson at Cincinnati and Dan Fouts at San Diego, two great quarterbacks. We worked on the same things with Joe that we had with those two, especially picking out the second and third receivers. It wasn't as if Joe was the only quarterback who could find his alternate receivers—Anderson and Fouts both were good at that—but Joe had instincts no one else had. He could go to the third receiver so much more easily. The thought process happened more quickly, and he had that remarkable agility.

Through the 10 years we were together Joe and I got along very well, although as with two people in a marriage there always





**In the late '80s Walsh had Young hanging in the background [right], but Super Joe remained the main man.**

are going to be differences. But I don't think there ever was a time when Joe wanted to go in a different direction than the one we were going in. It was never a question of Joe wanting more authority or autonomy. He thrived on what we were doing, and if during a game he told me he wanted to do this or that, we did it, unless he didn't understand the ramifications. We had as fine a relationship as a quarterback and coach can have and still reach the heights we did.

People looking for differences between us remember the playoff game at the end

of the 1987 season, when we lost to the Minnesota Vikings. We were down 20-3 at halftime, and I took out Joe in favor of Steve Young in the second half. We weren't protecting the passer to our left side; Joe couldn't set up and wasn't playing well. Being a lefthander, Steve could see the rush coming from the left, and as we know, Steve can scramble.

I thought for five minutes and decided to make the change. My job was to do what was best for the team; I couldn't worry

about my relationship with a particular player. So I replaced Joe with Steve. Right or wrong, I had to do it. I couldn't worry if I was going to create a stir. Despite the change, we lost to the Vikings 36-24.

The next summer we were in London for a preseason game with the Miami Dolphins, and I was asked in a TV interview about our quarterbacks. I couldn't think of something to say, and I said the wrong thing. I said we had a "quarterback controversy," but I meant that we had competition, that Steve was a real force. Dolphins coach Don Shula told me, "Do you know what you said?" I asked him, "Did I make an ass out of myself?" He just said, "Good luck." We both laughed.

That fall of 1988 Joe got hurt, and Steve played some. The press made a big deal out of the "controversy," but Joe was just too weak to function. In a midseason game with the Phoenix Cardinals, Steve played the whole way. We led 23-0 in the third quarter and lost 24-23.

The next week was the low point of 49ers football during my tenure. Joe still couldn't function, but I put him back in. If I'd had my nerve I would have stayed with Steve, but at the time I thought to myself, "If I do that, I'm really in trouble." Joe wasn't himself, but he played. We lost to the Los Angeles Raiders 9-3.

We didn't play again until the following Monday night. By then Joe was back to his old form. We blew out the Washington Redskins and rolled right on into Super Bowl 23—the one in which Joe led us on that dramatic last-minute comeback to beat the Cincinnati Bengals 20-16.

Considering what he accomplished, and what he had to overcome physically and mentally in continually re-establishing his confidence after a

number of serious injuries, Joe was the best. Bradshaw

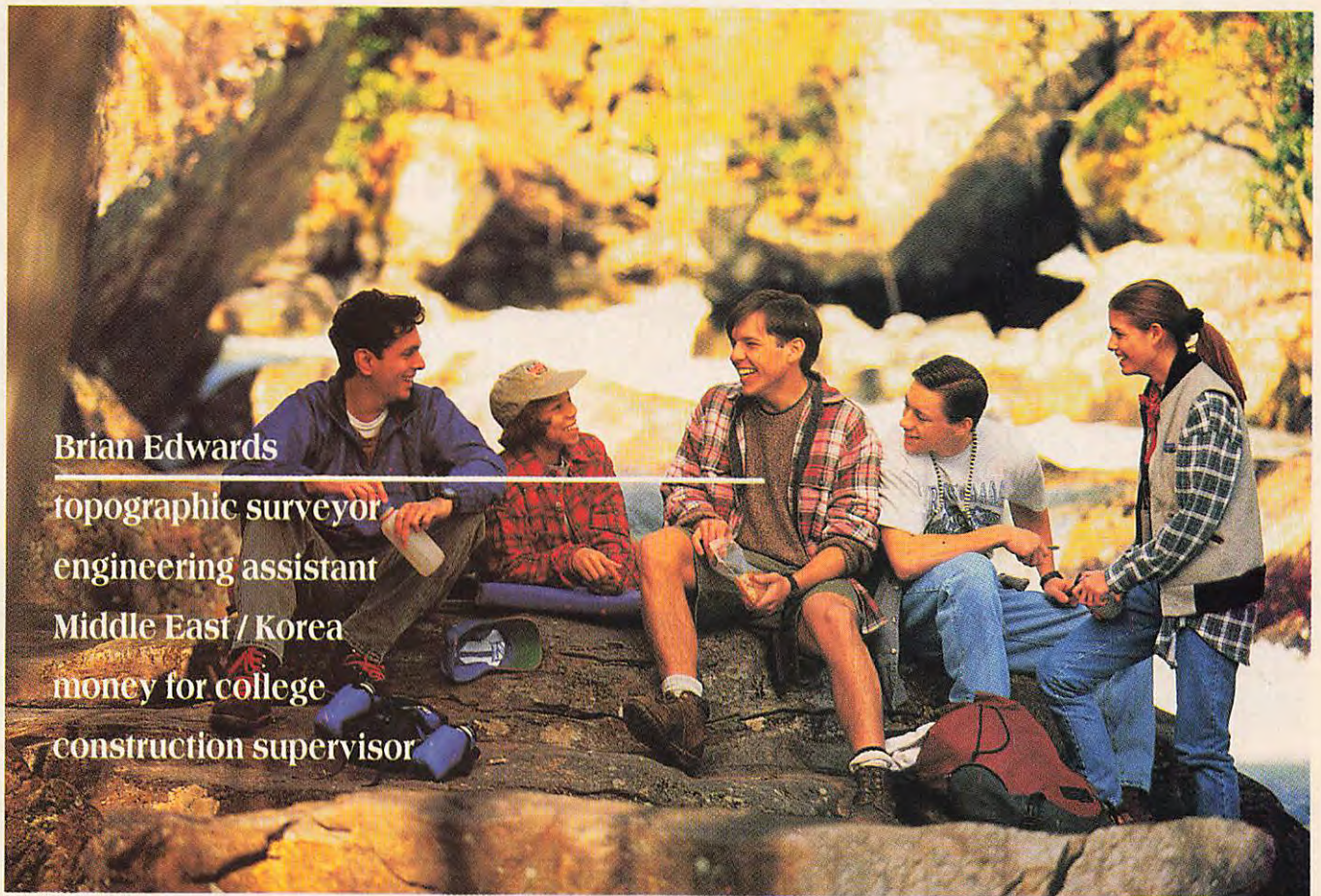
won four Super Bowls, but he had incredible support with those Pittsburgh Steelers teams. In my opinion, when you look at what Joe did given the support he had—which was great but not incredible—he was the greatest quarterback ever. ■

*BILL WALSH worked with veteran sportswriter ART SPANDER in preparing this article.*





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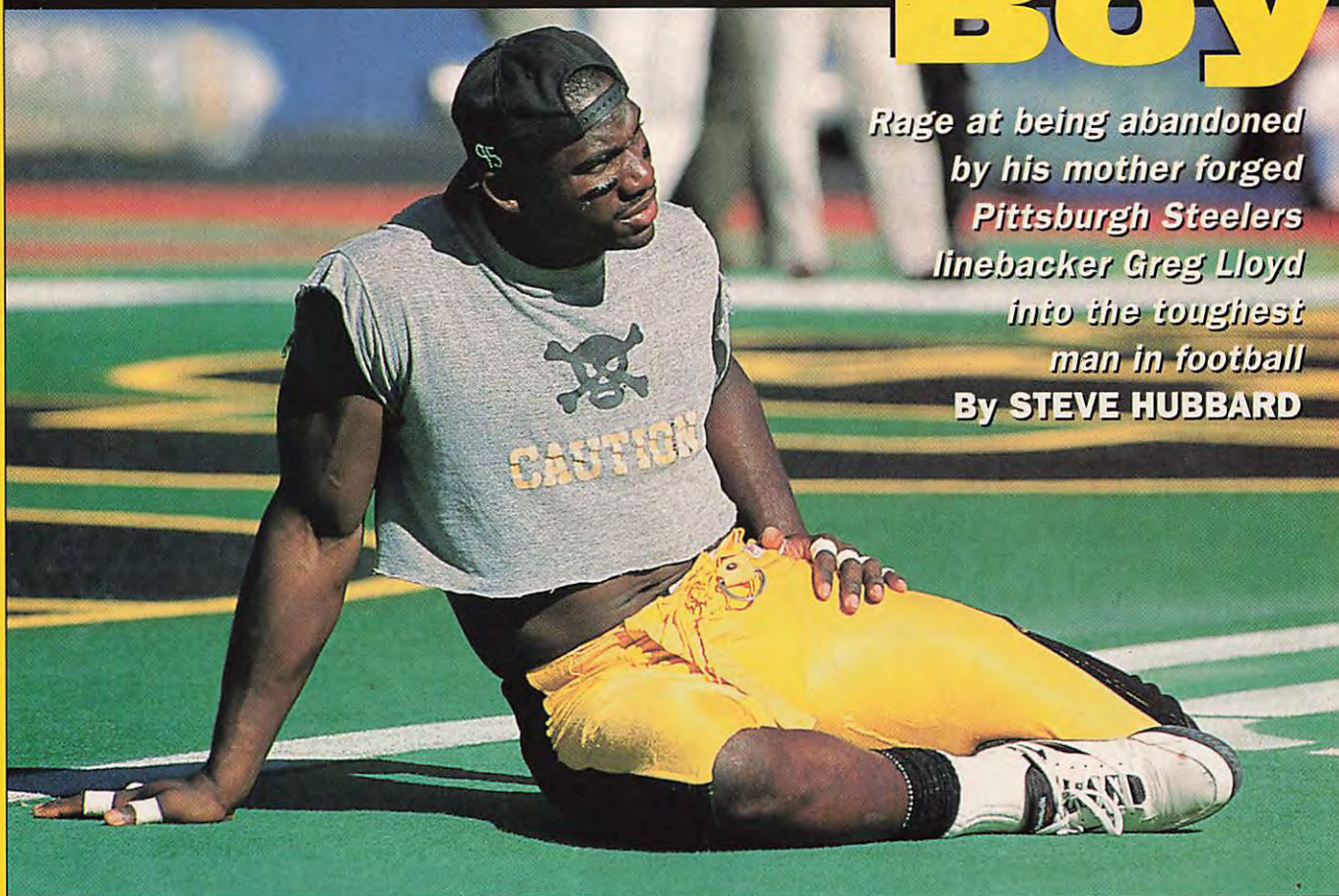
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# Mama's Boy

*Rage at being abandoned  
by his mother forged  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
linebacker Greg Lloyd  
into the toughest  
man in football*  
**By STEVE HUBBARD**



**N**ETTIE ARRIVED BEFORE THE sun. Six sleepy-eyed children trudged out of the Georgia gloom, out of their mother's car, out of their mother's life, into their aunt's home and heart.

Nettie departed at daybreak, saying she'd fetch some milk from the store and be right back. That was July 1967. "I kept waiting and waiting," says Aunt Bertha Mae, 28 years later. "That milk hasn't gotten back yet."

The milk is as sour, as curdled, as the relationship between Nettie and Greg Lloyd, the son she abandoned. The Pittsburgh Steelers' ferocious linebacker has a \$7 million contract; a wife who is a civic leader; three children; an antebellum mansion filled with All-Pro, Pro Bowl, and man of the year awards; an awesome physique and first step; a black belt in tae kwon do; and an intimate knowledge of pain and rage.

Nettie drove all night from Miami to little Fort Valley, Ga., showed up unannounced on her sister's doorstep between 4 and 5 a.m., and left six kids—ranging from two-year-old Greg to 10-year-old Linda—

with nothing but the clothes on their backs. She left with no warning, no explanation, no apology, not even a goodbye—just a promise broken, and a cruel question for her children to ponder for a lifetime: What kind of mother abandons her kids?

Many were the nights her youngest cried himself to sleep, wailing for his mama, until Linda convinced Greg he might as well stop because Mama wasn't coming back. He seemed to accept that answer without rancor—until he stepped onto the football field, where all the pent-up rage spewed forth like molten lava.

At Peach County High, officials ejected Lloyd from a game after a tackle that broke a quarterback's leg, even though the hit was legal. He was so intense at Fort Valley State, where he was three-time team MVP and the 1986 Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference defensive player of the year, that former roommate Darryl Holmes recalls, "If we were playing a game at 8 p.m., you just didn't talk to Greg after about 1 p.m."

Years have passed, but the Doberman disposition is undiminished. He was ejected from his first pro game for fighting after the whistle, and after eight seasons he's

been flagged, fined, and ejected so often you'd need a calculator to tally all his transgressions. Admiring Steelers coaches compare his savagery to that of Jack Lambert and Lawrence Taylor. Jerry Glanville called him football's meanest man and toughest man, and he, too, meant that as a compliment. Newspapers and players in other towns have called him classless, a thug, a jerk, a pit bull, and they do not mean any of those things as compliments.

Like Lambert, Lloyd has yanked out a tooth and kept on playing. He head-butted someone without his helmet and gashed himself so badly he needed stitches. He admits his favorite hit is one in which he knocked himself silly. He mockingly counted out an unconscious Al Toon, slapping the turf 1-2-3 like a wrestling official because he was "elated" to see loony Toon eyes. He gave Sam Wyche the finger. He has cursed NFL leaders, refs, announcers, and writers. He has taunted opponents and teammates alike, railing at and often rallying slumbering Steelers.

Even in practice, his position coach must plead with him to stop battling teammates and hitting so hard, must drag him out of





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**Steel will: "I took all the anger and channeled it into positive energy."**

BOB ROSATO

the huddle so his backup can practice at least a few snaps. Even on the practice sideline, Lloyd never rests, never stops screaming, encouraging, admonishing. When practice ends, he puts in a couple hours of nonstop tae kwon do workouts. In the offseason, he lifts weights and runs in the morning, practices martial arts at lunch, returns for a second football workout in the afternoon, then finishes with an evening charity basketball game.

Still crazy—and vicious—after all these years. Why?

"Anger," Lloyd says. "I took all the anger and channeled it to positive energy. When parents were screaming for a kid on the other team, it was my job to take that kid out, make sure that kid hurt. My attitude was, 'OK, scream for him now!' It's kind of sick, but that was my thing."

"It went from grade school right through high school, college, even the NFL. Coming from Fort Valley State, I had to prove I could play NFL ball. I'd hear, 'Where's Fort Valley? Oh, *Division II*. If you played at the University of Georgia, you'd be third string—if you made the team.'

That's an insult! How can you tell me that when you don't know me?"

To know Greg Lloyd, to know what drives him, you need only know the sins of the father he's never met and the mother who deserted him. He was too young to remember that summer day, but his older siblings tell him they sat on their aunt's floor that first night and wondered, "What now?" Bertha Mae Rumph tried to be optimistic, saying their mother probably was visiting friends or relatives. But "after a week, I got worried," she says. "After two weeks, I was about to go crazy."

She couldn't understand it then. "You read about stuff like this in the paper, but when it really hits home it's a feeling you can't describe." And she can't understand it now. Bertha Mae says she didn't see her sister for another 18 or 19 years, and she never did get an explanation.

"I just want to know why," Bertha Mae says. "She had a good job. She was a nurse in a hospital. She didn't have any [drug] problems. She never drank, she never smoked, she never did anything like that. We just don't know what happened. She

never has said. Greg has tried to ask her, and she never gives him an answer." Maybe she's ashamed, it's suggested. "I would be," Bertha Mae says.

Bertha Mae would not let the family be split apart into foster homes. She had six children of her own—two still at home in her two-bedroom apartment—but she squeezed in six more, the bunk beds practically wall-to-wall. Separated from her husband, she juggled two low-paying jobs as a cook. What material wealth she couldn't provide she made up for in love, faith, and discipline. Greg sang in the church and in school choirs. He joined the Boy Scouts. He excelled in school and in sports. He got whipped with a belt on those rare occasions he misbehaved. His aunt would not let parental neglect become an excuse for young Greg to go bad.

"She was my role model," Lloyd says. "She has a third-grade education, but when it comes to morals and values she's got a master's degree. She raised six of her kids and six of someone else's—there isn't a money value you can put on that. Her reward will be reaped in heaven. She's the only mother I ever knew."

Oh, his "real" mother returned once. She pulled up alongside him one day as he played in the front yard and said, "I'm your mom." And then she was gone. He was 12.

"It was the same then as today," Lloyd says. "There's no relationship, no feeling, in me. The sad part is, if someone called me right now and said 'Your mother has passed away,' I couldn't cry. How can I cry for someone I've never had feelings for?"

"For a long time I was bitter. But if you consider yourself a Christian, in order to be forgiven by others you have to first forgive. I forgave my mom and dad a long time ago. That's something they have to deal with themselves. Here's a father who has a son who's a pro football player. If he's watching a game I'm playing, how can he hit his buddy and say, 'That's my son!' That's the pain he has to deal with. I can't say, 'I hate him.' It's not a hate thing. I've never seen him, never talked to him."

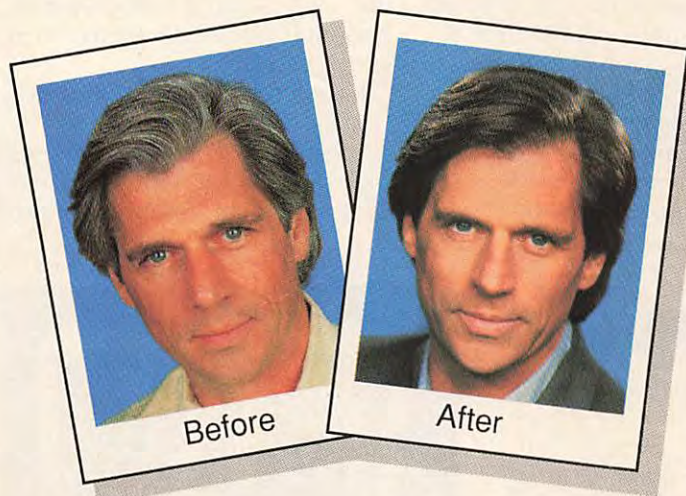
He hasn't seen his mother in three years. "When my son was born, it was my duty to say, 'This is your grandson.' So I drove—drove—from Pennsylvania to Florida. But her interest was not in spending time with my son."

"When my daughter was born, I flew [my mother] up here. But when she got here, she was more concerned about a car that had been stolen than her grandkid. 'I'm trying to make this happen, and you're more concerned about your car than spending time with your grandkids and trying to make things work with your son.' All the old feelings—'What were you con-



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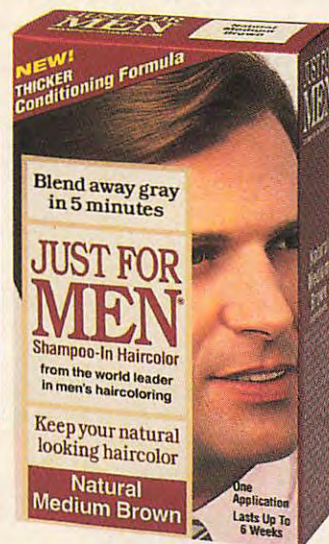
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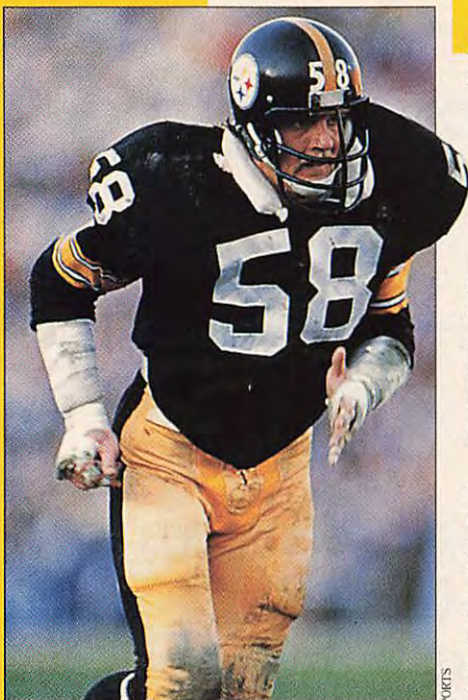


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**A**VOID LLOYD, cautions one sign at Three Rivers Stadium. JUST PLAIN NASTY, another warns.

He seethes, he snarls, he scowls, he screams, he intimidates—and that's just in the locker room. On the field, no linebacker does more. Lloyd has made the past four Pro Bowls, was consensus All-Pro the past two years. He's the UPI's and the Kansas City 101 Club's reigning AFC defensive player of the year. His teammates have twice named him their MVP; a feat Steelers Hall-of-Famers Jack Ham, Mel Blount, Franco Harris, and Joe Greene never achieved.

He has led the Steelers in sacks twice and gathered 10 last year even though he rarely rushes on passing downs. A wicked hitter—"He doesn't just tackle people, he blows them up," says teammate Jerry Olsavsky—Lloyd has led the Steelers in forced fumbles each of the past four years and has 23 in that span. He also has led them in tackles, whether he's stuffing players who think they can run at a 226-pounder or chasing down plays all over the field.

Ask linebackers coach Marvin Lewis to name his favorite Lloyd play, and he mentions a completion to Cleveland Browns receiver Mark Carrier, who shook loose when Steelers cornerback Rod Woodson slipped. "Greg chased him down 40 yards

downfield, on a hamstring so bad he shouldn't have been playing," Lewis says. "That exemplifies Greg Lloyd. Not many other people could even have walked out there on that hamstring."

"Or the play against Cincinnati in '94 when Carl Pickens caught the ball and [cornerback] Deon Figures fell. Greg hooked Pickens out of bounds at the two, led a goal-line stand, and they didn't score a point. That's what winning is all about. He has an aura about him like Jack Lambert, yet he has the athletic ability of Jack Ham."

Steelers coach Bill Cowher compares Lloyd's passion to that of Lambert and Lawrence Taylor, but Cowher struggles to compare Lloyd's play to anyone's, because Lloyd is that rare linebacker who does it all. Cowher remembers calling a timeout before a critical third down against the Bengals last year and deciding Lloyd, who usually drops into coverage on passing plays, should blitz. Why? "He's a playmaker," Cowher says. "When the game's on the line, he's going to make the play. He stripped David Klingler, we recovered, and we won the game."

If the Steelers don't win, they incur the Wrath of Greg:

♦ November 1991: After the Steelers sleepwalk through a 41-14 loss to the Washington Redskins and daydream through

cerned about when you left me at my aunt's doorstep?"—all that came back."

He glares across the table, his eyes white-hot embers.

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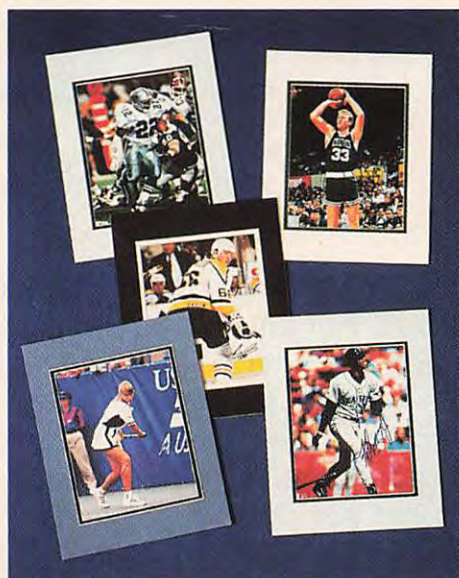
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meetings the next week, Lloyd blows up, scolds them, calls them sissies. On Sunday against the Houston Oilers they respond with six takeaways—one more than in their previous six games combined—forcing four fumbles, four drops, and Warren Moon's career-high five interceptions in a 26-14 upset of their AFC Central rivals.

"They can curse me out and say, 'Who do you think you are?'" Lloyd says afterward. "Sometimes we have skirmishes. Players get mad. I can deal with it. You don't have to like me. You don't have to talk to me. You can hate my guts. If you give 110% like I do, that's all I ask."

◆ November 1992: His team trailing the impotent Detroit Lions, Lloyd mutters and paces the sideline until he can take no more, then leads a band of players who beg the coaches to unleash their blitz. A blitzing Woodson sacks Erik Kramer late in the game to set up the winning touchdown. "If you're not fired up," Woodson says, "Greg will fire you up—or tick you off."

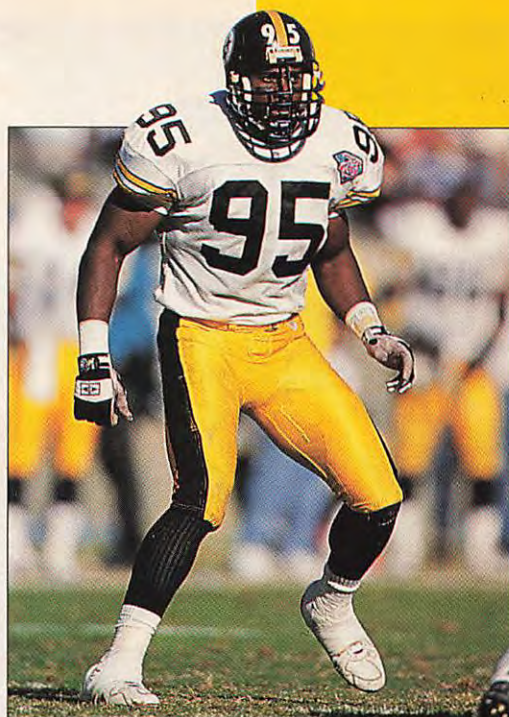
◆ December 1992: The Steelers are losing to the dreadful Seattle Seahawks, and Lloyd clears a sideline table of a huge Gatorade vat and every single paper cup. The team wakes up, pulls out the win, and goes on to its first division title since 1984. "You have to have that wacko fire in your belly," says Frank Spearman, Lloyd's high

school assistant principal, "and he's had it from the beginning."

◆ September 1993: The Steelers, supposed Super Bowl contenders, open the season 0-2, including a 27-0 embarrassment to a bad Los Angeles Rams team. Lloyd promptly becomes the featured speaker in a players-only meeting. "It's not enough just to get a guy down," he tells them. "You have to let that guy know, 'I'll step on your neck and break it.'" The Steelers promptly win four in a row and six of seven.

◆ January 1994: The Steelers lose at Seattle when Lloyd can't play, and they limp into the season finale against Cleveland with an 8-7 record. A playoff berth hinges on a victory, yet they're going through the motions and trailing 9-3 at halftime. Lloyd launches into a locker room tirade with enough expletives to make a drill sergeant blush. Then, playing on that bad hamstring, he forces two second-half fumbles that lead to field goals in the Steelers' 16-9 comeback win.

"If you would have walked in here [at halftime], you'd have felt [the attitude was] 'Let's hurry up and get this — over with,'" Lloyd fumes afterward. "I'm like,



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BOB ROSENTHAL

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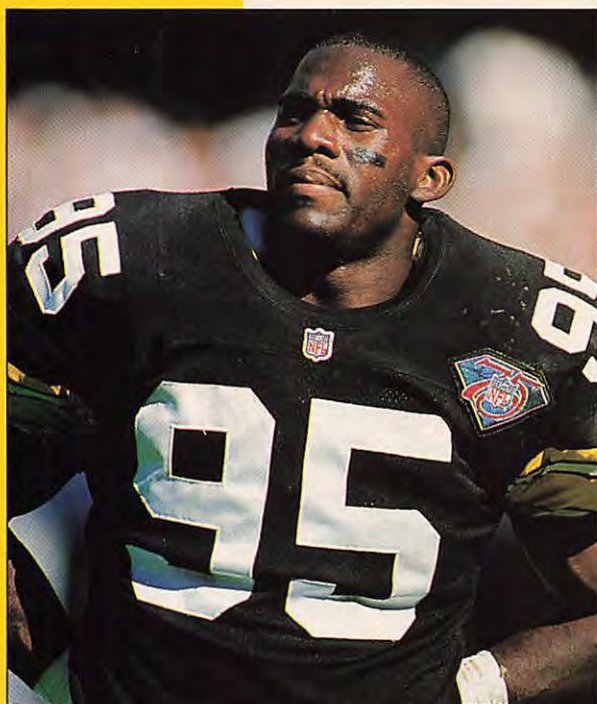
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DOUG FENSINGER/SPORT

notches. We were like, 'Oh, this team can't beat us. We'll just play good enough not to lose.' It leaves a bad taste."

**L**loyd is spending the 1995 offseason in Georgia, but in March he returns to Pittsburgh to be honored at yet another banquet. First things first, though. He heads straight to tae kwon do class with Grand Master Young Bo Kong, a two-time world champion and an eighth-degree black belt.

They met in 1989, when the Steelers' conditioning coach introduced Kong to 18 of his players. For 17 of them, Lloyd says, "it was too much." For Lloyd it was perfect: The Korean martial art requires quickness, conditioning, hitting, discipline, and a mentor.

By 1993 Lloyd had earned a black belt, leaving knuckle imprints and blood on the boards until they shattered on his fourth try.

These days Lloyd is a second-degree black belt, but on this evening he's simply the biggest guy in a class ranging from small children to middle-aged men. Everyone stretches and spars and goes through some of the patterned movements that are the essence of tae kwon do: right knee to the groin, left foot to the head; spin out of danger, swirl, kick to the head. When class ends, Lloyd banters, signs autographs, and sticks around until 11 p.m. to help grade the kids and novices testing for new belts.

"You see him work out, and you don't wonder why he's successful," Kong says. "He pushes the limit, through excruciating pain, and then more."

Lloyd pushes like few others, or he wouldn't have gone from sixth-round draft choice to All-Pro, wouldn't have recovered from severe knee injuries that wiped out most of his first two seasons. Yet he returned faster, surlier, meaner than ever.

His favorite T-shirts speak when he won't. One features a skull and crossbones on the front, the words *I WASN'T HIRED FOR MY DISPOSITION* on the back.

"I don't think the Steelers knew what they were getting as far as my disposition," Lloyd says. "They knew I could play, but I don't think they knew how hard I could play. I promised myself, especially after the second knee injury, that I would not be

one of those guys who took things for granted. Every practice, every down, I'd be 100 mph. I can't let anybody outwork me."

His secret is simple. "Complacency," Lloyd sneers, "is a sin." It's a message he shares with his teammates, with sick children on his weekly hospital visits, with the inner-city kids in the football league he runs, with the kids in Project Bundle-Up and the NFL Minicamp for Kids, with his own children.

Says Lloyd: "I tell my son all the time, 'When you're born, you are mediocre. Everybody's equal. There are no one-day-old geniuses. It's what you do after you're born that sets you apart.'"

"He's six years old. He's in Tball and tae kwon do, and I tell him, 'You can be like those other kids, or you can be better. That's up to you. If you go home and play Nintendo videos and sit around, you're going to be just like them. If you want to work with me, I'm proud. But if you don't, you'll be just like those other kids. Some little-bitty kid who's 10 pounds lighter will kick your butt. How will you feel? How will I feel watching you when I know you have more potential than that?'"

"I tell him, 'The idea of doing a sport is not just to do it for fun. It's to be the best. I don't want you to just have fun. I want you to be the best one out there. You may not be the best, but if you put the effort in you'll make me proud. If you don't, that's unacceptable in my household.'" No smile, no hint of laughter in his voice.

Underneath Lloyd's gruff exterior, though, is a huge soft spot for kids. "His heart is as big as this," Kong says, and spreads his arms four feet apart.

"The things I do with kids are more important than what I do on Sunday," Lloyd says. "One of life's basic essentials is to live a life that will outlast your life. I just got back from talking to students at a mentor program at Ohio University. I told them about my life. Some had similar backgrounds. I explained to them, 'What you do with your life is up to you. What your parents did, good or bad, that's their life. Don't get caught up in: *My mom's not here, my dad's not here, therefore I can't function.* I've been down that road.'"

"I'm 30 years old, and I've never gotten an explanation [why his mother abandoned him]. It doesn't matter anymore. Life goes on. It makes me have a better relationship with my wife and kids—I understand that being there is more important than just saying things. I tell my son, 'No matter what, Daddy's going to be there. Daddy's always going to be there.'"

Always. Always and forever. Because Greg Lloyd knows how much it hurts when Mom and Dad aren't there. ■

When a guy is getting his butt kicked all day, you can't say, 'It's all right.' You have to tell him, 'This is bull. If you can't do better, stay here and we'll put somebody else in.'"

♦ November 1994: After a fourth-quarter goal-line stand keeps the Miami Dolphins from scoring, Lloyd throws his helmet and hits a chain-crew member's ankle. He screams at the Pittsburgh offense, which hasn't scored a touchdown in 13 quarters: "Hey, just get it across the 50-yard line! Kick a field goal! Do something! Wake up!" The offense produces a touchdown on its next drive and a field goal to win the game in overtime. Lloyd contributes a team-high nine tackles and a crucial fumble recovery. "That was just Greg being Greg," Cowher says. "I hope he doesn't change." No need to worry about that.

♦ January 1995: Lloyd makes seven tackles, one for an eight-yard loss on a swing pass, one for no gain on first-and-goal as the Steelers outgain the San Diego Chargers 415-226 in the AFC Championship Game. But the offense can't put the Chargers away, the vaunted defense gives up two 43-yard touchdown passes, and the favored and overconfident Steelers blow a chance at the franchise's fifth Super Bowl appearance. This time, nothing Lloyd says or does can make a difference. Afterward he turns his chair away from teammates and reporters, staring a hole into the floor.

"It is still with me," he says months later. "I was upset at a lot of people. You've got to have enough guts to put that club away. Let's turn it up not just one notch, but 10



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# Of Deion, Dallas, and Do-Rags

*Where's Deion Sanders? Will the 49ers be as explosive as ever? We've got 95 questions for NFL 1995—and the answers, too* **By STEVE HUBBARD**

## **1** Will the San Francisco 49ers re-sign cornerback Deion Sanders?

They say he's such an overwhelming first priority that they don't have a second. For the Niners to be able to afford Deion, wide receiver John Taylor, who has slowed noticeably because of sore knees, and strong safety Tim McDonald, who can be replaced ably by Marquez Pope, must accept pay cuts or be lopped from the roster. But expect the Dallas Cowboys and Miami Dolphins to go after Sanders equally hard when the Deion derby heats up later this summer.

### **2. Can the Niners replace running back Ricky Watters?**

Not with one man. They think they can replace Watters as a runner with Derek Loville, a good inside runner; Derrick Moore, a goal-line scorer who averaged 141 rushing and receiving yards in three starts subbing for Barry Sanders in 1993; and a veteran free agent, William Floyd, who called himself the NFL's best fullback before he had played in a pro game and proved it by season's end, will run and catch more. The biggest concern is replacing Watters' downfield receiving, one reason the Niners drafted a wideout, UCLA's J.J. Stokes.

### **3. Why did they give up four picks—two in the first round—for Stokes? Is he another Jerry Rice?**

There may never be another Rice, but would you settle for a bigger Al Toon or

Michael Irvin? Four picks is a high price, but San Fran's selections come at the end of every round, they cost money to sign, and when you're as talent-laden as the 49ers, you can pay extra for difference-makers. The Niners made a strikingly similar trade-up a decade ago to draft Rice, whose speed, like Stokes', was questioned. If they can add another halfback and if Stokes is nearly as good as they think, the offense could be even better, hard as that is to believe.

### **4. Will Steve Young suffer from Super Bowl hangover or Watters' absence?**

No. The 49ers will rely on him even more now that they've essentially swapped a runner for a receiver. He'll win his third MVP trophy in four years.

### **5. Should Young be the first pick in my fantasy draft?**

Absolutely.

### **6. So are the 49ers still the best team in the NFL?**

Yes, as long as anyone but the Cowboys sign Deion. Sanders is such a game-breaker that he could swing the balance of power. "If they re-sign Deion, they're still the team to beat," says an NFC coach. "If they don't, Deion Sanders, Ricky Watters, Mike Shanahan, and Ray Rhodes are four big losses. They'll come back to the pack."

### **7. Will San Francisco miss Shanahan and Rhodes, their brilliant offensive and defensive coordinators?**

Rhodes, now the head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles, says no: "The machine is going to continue to roll. Guys like Steve

Who do  
you  
like,  
Deion





Young aren't going to let them lose. They can go out there without the coaches and win. How much do they need us?" Somewhat. Shanahan, now the coach of the Denver Broncos, is an X's and O's genius who took a great offense to an even higher level. Last year Rhodes quickly molded six new starters into an aggressive defense. Their successors must maintain that junkyard dog mentality.

**8. Would the 49ers really have been so heartless as to fire George Seifert if he didn't win the Super Bowl?**

We'll never know. He says so, but team president Carmen Policy says he doubts owner Eddie DeBartolo would have fired Seifert—but when Shanahan was thrown into the mix, Policy replied with only a long pause. Whatever the case, Seifert, one of history's most underrated coaches, deserves more credit and respect.

**9. Who wrote that song with the line, "Don't know much about geography"?**

Hey, who do we look like, Casey Kasem? We know this: It wasn't anyone from the NFL. With the Rams bolting L.A. for St. Louis, the NFC "West" stretches from the Southeast (Carolina) to the Deep South (Atlanta, New Orleans) to the Midwest (St. Louis) to the West (San Francisco). Phoenix still is in the NFC "East," and Florida Sun Belt teams are scattered in Rust Belt divisions. Not only is the alignment illogical, but it's impractical for fans such as those in New Orleans, who get stuck with odd hours because the networks demand 4 p.m. ET kickoffs for the West divisions.

**10. So why doesn't the league realign?**

Because airfares don't take precedence

over owners' self-interest. Example: The Cardinals balk at leaving the NFC East because Arizona has as many Cowboys fans as Cardinals fans, and that makes for a nice payday when your team can't draw cacti for other opponents. Pittsburgh Steelers president Dan Rooney continues to press for realignment, but with selfishness pervasive and several owners casting covetous glances at Baltimore and Southern California, there's uncertainty and no urgency to realign now. Reshuffling won't occur until next March or the next expansion—or maybe never. As Falcons owner Rankin Smith points out, when Atlanta entered the league it was told its NFC West assignment was temporary. That was 30 years ago.

**11. Why did commissioner Paul Tagliabue and the league owners initially oppose the Rams' move?**

For all the right reasons: Because teams



**What's the bid?**

**Where are you gonna go?**

**Who's on first?**



# '95 NFL Questions

are morally obliged not to abandon fans who have supported them for 50 years the moment a rival city offers to make them filthy rich instead of just rich. Because the Rams' profits were better than many—an average of \$9.5 million a year from 1990 to 1993, according to the league's accountants. Because Rams management, from owner Georgia Frontiere on down, contributed to the team's demise with poor marketing and poor teams, and seemed more interested in leaving than in working with Orange County leaders to improve their stadium. Because the NFL didn't want only one team in Southern California, especially given the volatility of the Raiders in Los Angeles. Because the Rams didn't want \$74 million from personal seat licenses split into the stadium revenue-sharing deal. Because the Fox network might demand a rebate of \$15 million for losing the nation's No. 2 TV market and getting No. 20. Because the Rams had not met all NFL guidelines concerning prospective moves. Because even though lawsuits were threatened, sometimes it's more important to do what's right than what's expedient.

## 12. Sounds like a lot of good reasons. So why did they change their minds within a month?

Because of money—not just the Rams' increased payment to the league, but potential treble damages other owners would pay if the NFL lost the lawsuit. NFL lawyers assured the owners they'd win in court, but they'd heard that before. Plus, NFC West owners liked splitting St. Louis' bigger pot. So all the talk about L.A. tradition, Roman Gabriel, and the Fearsome Foursome was just sanctimonious noise. The owners put a price tag on their virtue, just like the old joke.

## 13. What joke?

A man asks a woman, "Would you sleep with me for \$1 million?" She says, "Sure!" He says, "Would you sleep with me for \$10?" She becomes indignant: "What do you think I am?" The man replies, "We've already determined that. Now we're just haggling about price."

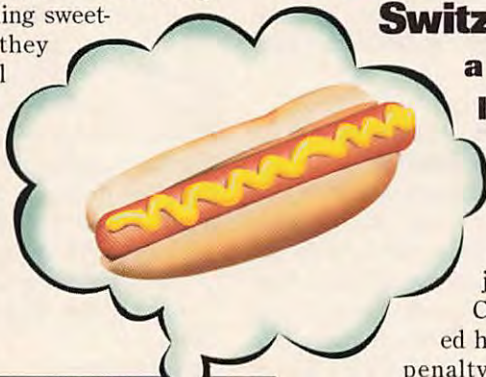
## 14. We're not from L.A. Why should we care?

If the owners will sell their souls even when it means a team leaving the nation's second-biggest market, what will they do to your town? Now that franchises have the freedom to change cities just like free-agent quarterbacks do, every metropolis can be held hostage to any outrageous demand from an NFL franchise. If Bengals owner Mike Brown demands Cincinnati spend \$250 million on a football stadium

just so he can play eight or 10 games a year in return for rent that never will cover the city's costs, never replace the fired policemen or increased taxes, Cincy either subsidizes a multimillionaire or loses its pro football franchise to a desperate city that will. When Baltimore and Orange County come dangling sweet-heart deals—and they will—nothing will stop the Bengals or Browns or Oilers or Raiders or Bucs or Bears or Pats or Redskins from fleeing. Other owners can't say, "Hold on—you haven't met our

agents before they crumble. And those teams didn't do something asinine like fire a great coach.

## 17 You don't think Barry Switzer did a good job last year?



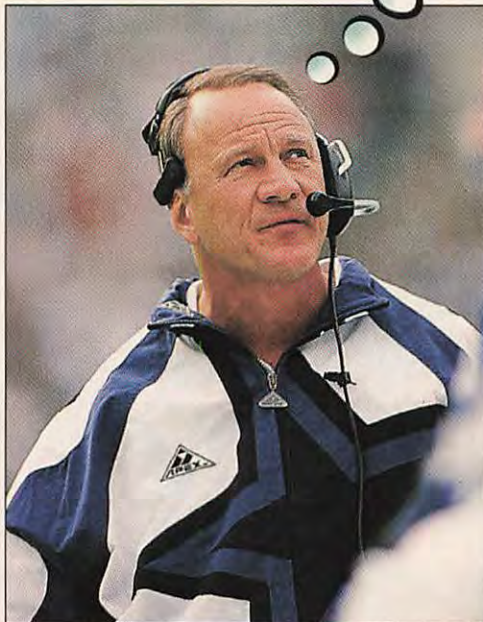
He let Jimmy Johnson's fine assistants and players do their jobs, but when the Cowboys really needed him, he got a costly penalty in the NFC title game. When last seen at a

football game, Switzer was munching a hotdog while sitting on the Pro Bowl bench, which pretty much sums up his game-day coaching impact.

## 18. Won't Jerry Jones keep the Cowboys on top?

He knows how to promote himself and his product, but Jimmy, not Jerry, built the champion. Jerry blundered and gave Tony Tolbert, a slightly above-average defensive end with chronic sore knees, \$15 million for five years, same as Michael Irvin; if Jerry hadn't overpaid, he might have kept at least one of the key free agents—Alvin Harper, Mark Stepnoski, James Washington, or Jim Jeffcoat—who left this year. Jerry's first draft pick without Jimmy, Shante Carver, bombed last season, and this year's draft, dubbed the "Dream Scheme" by the Boys, could prove to be a nightmare. One personnel director said Jerry seemed most interested in matching Jimmy's deal-making yet managed to add merely special teams players. Dallas did save some rookie money to pay the vets next year, but if this is your last hurrah, go for it now. Switzer says, "We're not thinking about the 49ers," but they should be. One opposing coach says pointedly, "If you're trying to make up ground on San Francisco, you don't draft insurance policies."

JOE ROSATO



**"Doggone, this NFL coaching stuff sure is easy. Now, how long till lunch, er, halftime?"**

guidelines," because they've shown their guidelines mean nothing.

## 15. Now that they've struck it rich, will the St. Louis Rams move up?

No. Just east.

## 16. Are the Cowboys still the league's second-best team?

Maybe, but the gap has widened appreciably unless Dallas pulls off a Deion coup. This will be the Cowboys' last hurrah. Nearly the entire defense is free to leave in '96, and they've already lost the best coach of the '90s, three dynamic coordinators, several great players, and considerable depth. As the Buffalo Bills and baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates proved before them, great teams can lose only so many free

agents before they crumble. And those teams didn't do something asinine like fire a great coach.

## 19. If the Cowboys don't make a run at the 49ers, who will?

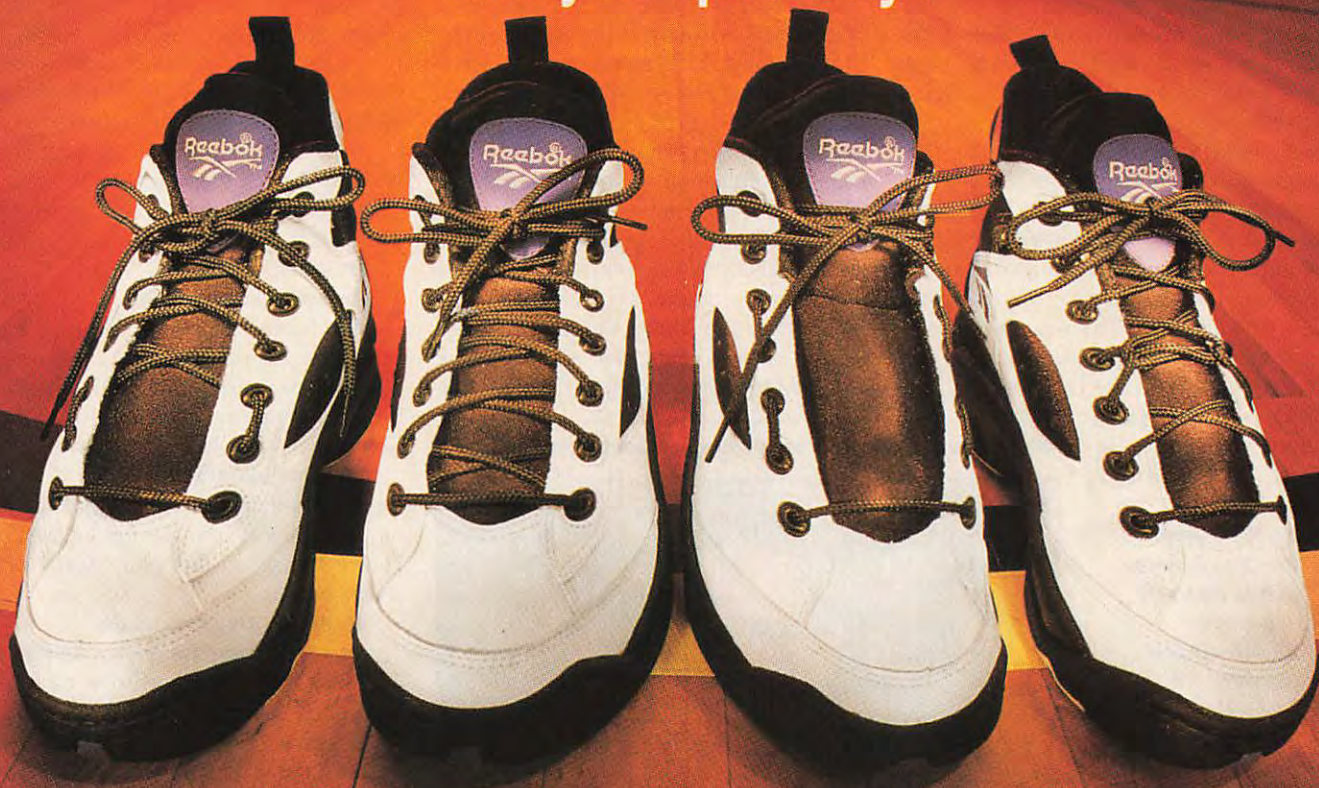
Minnesota. The Vikings were the only team to finish in the top five in the NFC last season in offense and in defense; they broke even in free agency, which is all the best teams can expect; and they had four



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## '95 NFL Questions

picks in the first two rounds of the draft. Defensive end Derrick Alexander is a big run-stuffer and tackle Korey Stringer a massive and athletic run-blocker, and Orlando Thomas and Corey Fuller probably will start in the secondary. Fourth-round steal Chad May could succeed quarterback Warren Moon in '96 or '97.

### 20. So the Vikings had a great draft?

Probably. Intriguingly, their first two picks played well but worked out poorly after the season. Alexander works hard but lacks the athleticism to be a great pass-rusher. Stringer got so fat scouts fret he could be another Lincoln Kennedy, who nearly ate himself out of the league. Still, Minnesota defensive coordinator Tony Dungy compares the Vikes' 1995 picks to Pittsburgh's in 1987, when as defensive coordinator there he helped the Steelers choose four future Pro Bowl defenders. "More guys who play well and don't work out well end up as good players than guys who work out well but don't play well," he says.

### 21. What worries you about the Vikings?

Dennis Green is 0-3 in the playoffs as Vikes coach, and Moon—who never has reached a conference championship game—is 3-7. Moreover, the Vikings have 10 games with 1994 playoff teams. That's partly because three other NFC Central teams, none particularly great, made the playoffs, but check out this September start: Chicago, Detroit, Dallas, Pittsburgh.

### 22. Who were the big winners in free agency?

The agents.

### 23. No—which teams?

The Carolina Panthers had the most money to spend, and boy, did they spend it. They often overpaid, but they built a solid defense and kicking game. The Denver Broncos again were incredibly active—trying to make up for their free-agent mistakes the past two years—and fortified a terrible defense. Likewise, the Washington Redskins reversed some recent ineptitude by bolstering

their defense. The Philadelphia Eagles added four good offensive starters but lost their only quality cornerback. The Houston Oilers got Pro Bowlers Mark Stepnoski and Mel Gray and stop-gap quarterback Chris Chandler. The Miami Dolphins did well if you count trades—and if Eric Green doesn't get hurt or get fatter.

### 24. Who were the biggest losers?

The Cowboys, again. And the Jacksonville Jaguars blew a lot of money and got just one quality starter, defensive end Jeff Lageman.

### 25. Got any free-agent deals for a sequel to "Dumb and Dumber"?

Oh yeah. Under a salary cap there's neither need nor room to spend big money on punters. Yet the Indianapolis Colts signed 1994's 28th-ranked punter, Chris Gardocki, to a \$2.25 million deal, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers will pay aging Reggie Roby \$1.965 million. Jacksonville spent \$2.4 million on guard Shawn Bouwens, last seen being used as a doormat by Reggie White when the Packers held Barry Sanders to negative yardage in the playoffs. Jacksonville also spent \$3 million on Joel Smeenge, an alleged pass-rush specialist who has 1.5 sacks in his five pro seasons—"and the one [sack] was cheap," says New Orleans Saints exec Jim Miller. Carolina spent \$9 million on so-so defensive end Mike Fox and gave superstar money to disappointing

linebacker Lamar Lathon, who's been decent in two of his five pro seasons.

### 26. My wife is nagging me about being glued to the tube every Sunday. What games should I mark as "can't-miss" on my calendar?

No real football fan can miss opening Sunday, September 3 this year. Start with the Cleveland Browns at New England Patriots, a rematch of an entertaining wild-card game last season. Flip during the commercials to the Indy-Cincy sideshow: Marshall Faulk, last year's franchise rookie back, vs. Ki-Jana Carter, this year's franchise rookie back. Watch the late games for the first hints of who'll win a wild, wild AFC West.

### 27. What's next?

On September 17, check out Kansas City hosting L.A. to see Art Shell wearing Chiefs red instead of Raiders black. The next night, watch Al, Frank, and Dan hype Pittsburgh-Miami as the AFC championship game preview, which it just may be.

### 28. Is that the game of the year?

No, the biggest game will be a repeat of 1994's monster bash: San Francisco-Dallas. This year it's in Dallas, on November 12.

### 29. Which pregame shows should I watch?

Go *backbackbackback* to ESPN: best features, best information, most news breaks. NBC's show is like "Seinfeld" lately: a half-hour that's more miss than hit. TNT? Getting a remake. Needed a remake.

### 30. What about Fox?

Rupert Murdoch's no rube. Enjoy the banter and insights from Jimmy Johnson and Howie Long, but don't buy Terry Bradshaw's bluster.

### 31. Which announcers do we watch once the games begin?

The way the networks throw away millions, you'd think fans tune in for the mike jockeys, not the matchups. They don't—networks and announcers are all twins. Here's the big difference: Fox offers facts in a corner of the screen, an innovation the other networks mocked, then mimicked.

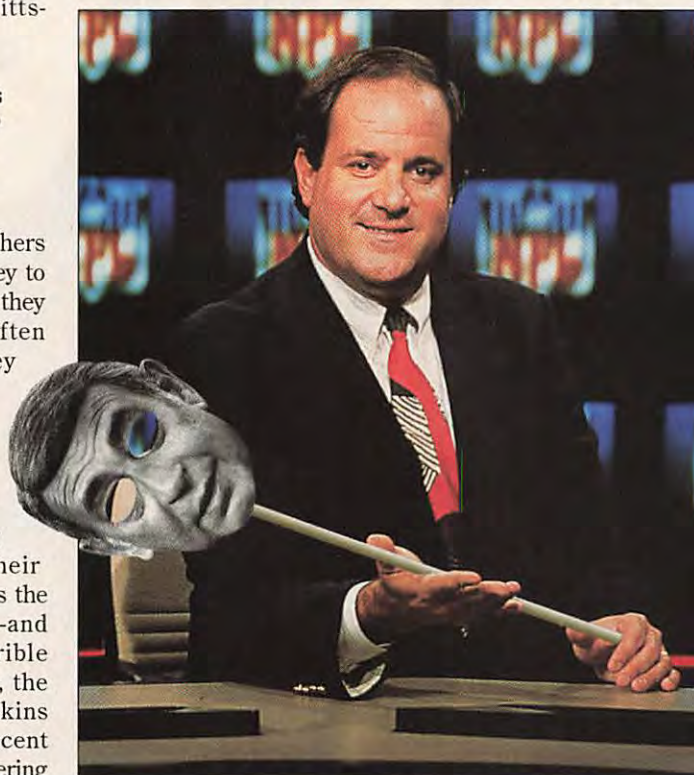
### 32. My spouse lets me watch football on TV for only one hour every Sunday. What do I do?

Get a divorce.

## 33 Be serious. What should I watch?

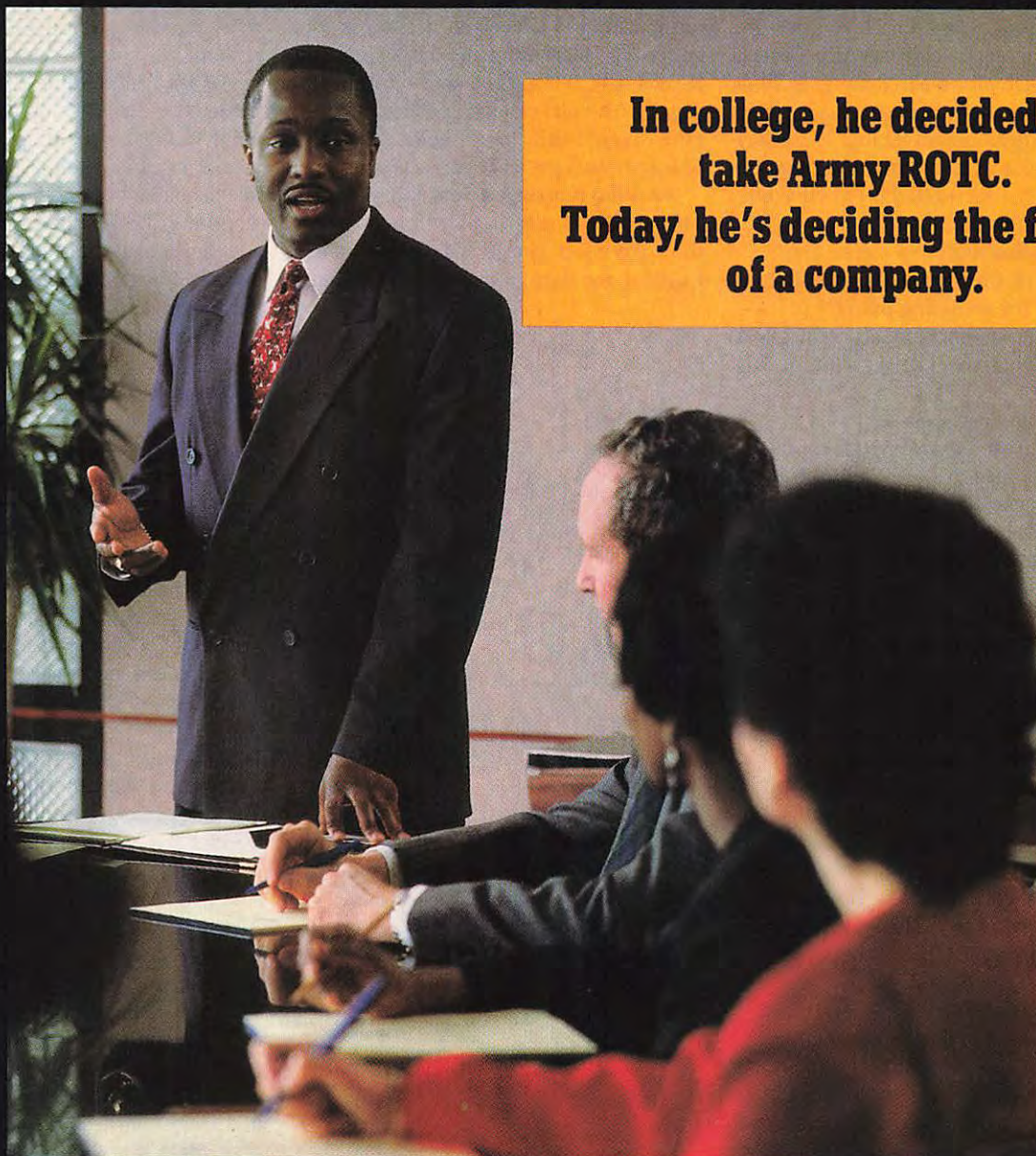
OK, there's one must-see hour: ESPN from 7 to 8 p.m. ET. Chris "Boomer" Berman does highlights better than anyone since Howard Cosell.

Right there! Berman borrows his bombast from the best.





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# '95 NFL Questions

**34. Give me more must-see games.**  
"Monday Night Football" offers some beauties: Browns-Steelers on November 13, which should help decide the AFC Central title; 49ers-Dolphins on November 20, a possible Super Bowl preview; Raiders-San Diego Chargers on November 27, a key AFC West game; and Niners-Vikings on December 18, which could be an NFC title preview if Dallas dies.

**35. Only five more months till Christmas. Can you help me with my shopping plans?**  
Yes, we'd like a sports utility vehicle—a V8 engine, four-wheel drive, sunroof, CD player...

**36. No—what games should I watch that last weekend?**  
Oh! These figure to decide playoff spots: Chargers-Giants and Patriots-Colts (December 23), Eagles-Bears and Broncos-Raiders (Christmas eve), Cowboys-Cardinals (Christmas night).

**37. OK, 36 questions, and you've barely mentioned the AFC. Don't hold back—now you're going to tell us the AFC is going to win its first Super Bowl in a dozen years, right?**  
Uhhh...no.

**38. You don't think anyone in the AFC can beat the 49ers?**  
Maybe the Steelers or the Dolphins, on their best days. Remember, an AFC team hasn't won the Super Bowl since 1984.

**39. Aren't the AFC's reigning champs, the San Diego Chargers, for real?**  
Probably not. The last time the Chargers took advantage of a weak schedule to win the AFC West, they promptly slid to 8-8 when the schedule got harder. This year they have the league's toughest schedule, based on opponents' 1994 won-lost record; the eight non-division games are killers. By contrast, the Raiders get Washington instead of Arizona, the New York Jets instead of Miami, and Cincy instead of Cleveland.

## 40 Who'll be the AFC's bust teams?

The Jets, the Chiefs—and maybe the Chargers.

**41. So the schedule will sink San Diego. Who else has a tough slate?**  
The New York Giants will be about 2-5 before they get a bye and a breather.

**42. What contenders have easy schedules?**  
Pittsburgh and Cleveland get to play six games vs. doormats Cincy, Houston, and Jacksonville. If those two don't return to the playoffs, the players and coaches ought to give back their paychecks. And the Chicago Bears get seven cake games.

**43. Who has the easiest schedule?**  
The Jets don't meet a playoff team other than division rivals Miami and New England, and they get Jacksonville, Atlanta,

coach after one year because the Jets lost five games in a row—and replaced him with a guy whose team dropped seven straight last season.

**46. Isn't Rich Kotite a good coach?**  
Some NFL people think he's solid. Others point to disastrous draft and free-agent moves in Philadelphia, plus a lackluster line despite a bevy of high draft picks, and wonder if he aims to win it all or just squeeze into the playoffs. Take what he's doing in New York: Big plays win games—tight ends don't stretch defenses or get in the endzone enough—but he's going to a two-tight-end offense, and he traded his only quality wideout, Rob Moore. (The incumbents have 16 career NFL catches combined.)

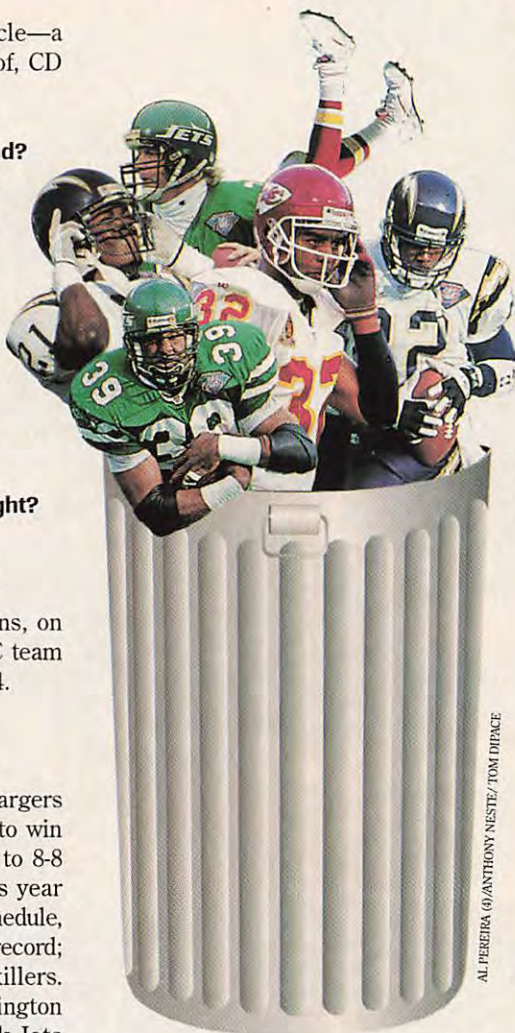
**47. So you think the Jets' draft stunk?**  
No. Kyle Brady was the best tight end in the draft, Hugh Douglas is a desperately needed pass-rusher who draws comparisons to Derrick Thomas and Greg Lloyd, and Matt O'Dwyer is a road grader. Kotite has replaced underachievers with overachievers—but unless the anonymous wideouts and linemen break through, the Jets will finish last in the AFC East.

**48. Who will win it?**  
The Dolphins. Don Shula has geared up for a Super Bowl push, using his first two draft choices this year to shore up his line's right side and trading a pair of picks for Trace Armstrong to improve his defensive line. The defense still might be a little too soft—adding Deion Sanders to the secondary wouldn't hurt. The big free-agent addition, tight end Eric Green, will boost the running and passing games, if only for a while. Buddy Ryan gave away Randal Hill and Gary Clark because he didn't think they could play, but we think they'll contribute in Miami; Don knows a hell of a lot more about offense than Buddy does.

**49. Aren't the New England Patriots supposed to be the hot young team on the rise?**  
Yes, but all the Patriots have gained is experience. They needed better defensive linemen but only got bigger ones. They needed a feature back but didn't get one of those, either.

**50. Can the Buffalo Bills make one last run?**  
Nope. They improved their front seven and solidified their offensive line, but their nucleus is past its prime.

**51. OK, you've covered your busts. Who will be the surprise team of '95?**  
The Indianapolis Colts will get a wild-card berth. The defense should be good, espe-



**Trash talk: The Chargers could join K.C. and the Jets in the AFC ash bin.**

Carolina, St. Louis, and Houston. If that doesn't get them into the playoffs, nothing will.

**44. So the Jets will make the playoffs?**

No way.

**45. Why not?**  
There's a reason they haven't returned to the Super Bowl since Joe Namath's white shoes were all the rage. Start at the top, where owner Leon "Mess" Hess fired his



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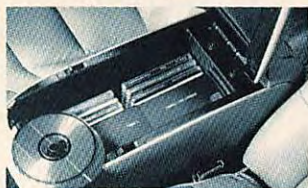
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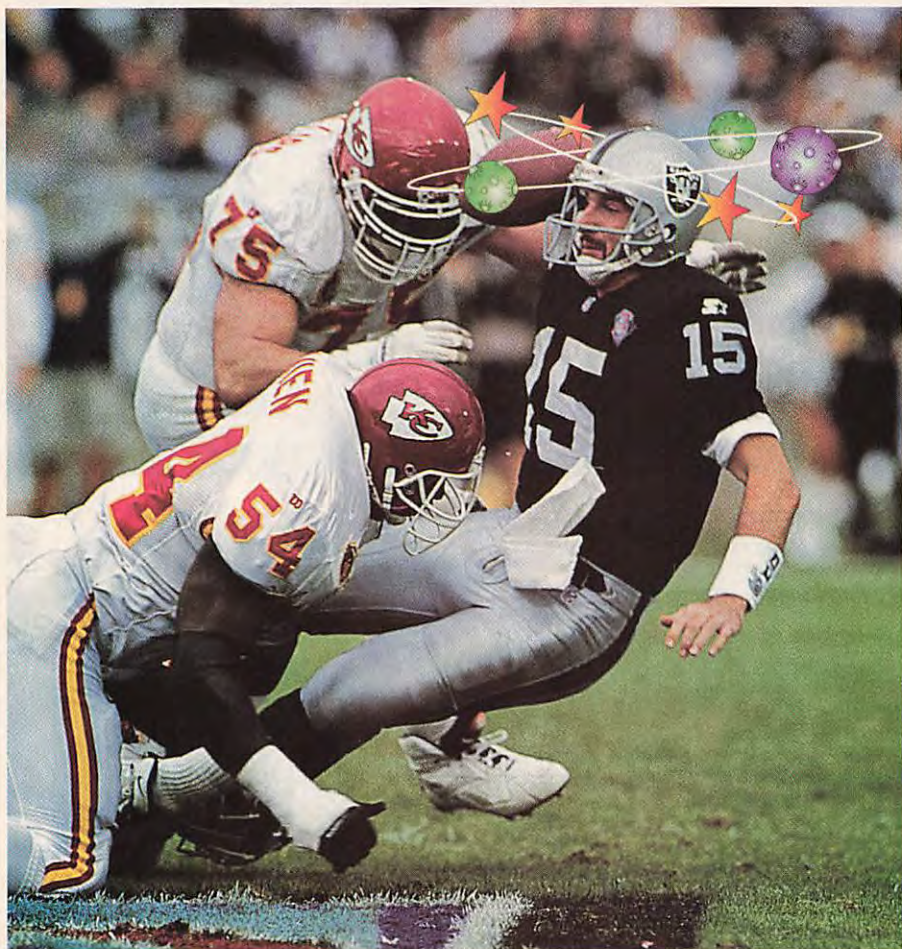
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# '95 NFL Questions

cially if Steve Emtman, the first player drafted in 1992, can stay healthy and if Ellis Johnson, the team's first pick this year, is as good as expected. In fact, Indy's first four selections were excellent—but the best move was trading next year's No. 1 for Craig Erickson, a good young quarterback who'll pair with Flipper Anderson to provide the deep threat rag-armed Jim Harbaugh never could.

That's a different question. If Foster is healthy and motivated—a big “if” for an oft-injured mercenary—he's just a notch below Barry Sanders and Emmitt Smith. He was the offense's only proven playmaker, an element the Steelers need if they're to reach the Super Bowl for the first time in 16 years. But, weary of his salary, injuries, holdouts, and insubordination, the Steelers virtually gave him away to the



Star-gazing will continue to be an L.A. pastime until Hoss learns to release earlier.

## 52. Who'll be the AFC's best team?

Perhaps Pittsburgh. The Steelers might have the league's best defense and best rushing offense—if Bam Morris proves to be the Barry Foster clone he looked like last season, convincing the Steelers they could afford to send Foster—with his salary and his attitude—to Carolina.

## 53. Is there really any difference between the two?

Oh, about \$2 million last year. Bam wasn't just cheaper than Bam Bam—he was better, too. Foster never got the tough yards, repeatedly coming up short on the goal line and on third-and-short.

## 54. So Morris and Erric Pegram can match Foster's production?

Panthers. Foster and coach Bill Cowher argued in the locker room, and Foster skipped Cowher's annual mandatory post-mortem meeting.

## 55. Is Neil O'Donnell good enough to take the Steelers all the way?

It's a big year for O'Donnell. He's in the last year of an overly generous contract. If he's as hot as he was at the end of '94, the Steelers might not be able to afford to pay him \$3 million-plus a year. If he's as scatter-shot as he was before that, they might not want to. Don't be surprised if Kordell Stewart, a second-round draft choice this year, is Pittsburgh's QB in '96.

## 56. Did Vinny Testaverde finally erase his “loser” label with the Cleveland

## Browns' 1994 wild-card win?

Yes—for one week, until he faced a real defense in Pittsburgh. After two quarters Testaverde had completed five passes for 29 yards to the Browns, and two for 21 to the Steelers. Later he grounded the ball to avoid a sack. Only one problem: It was fourth down.

## 57. Can you explain what the Browns were doing in the draft, when they traded the 10th pick to San Francisco?

No, and neither can anyone else. “Why the hell they traded that pick, I couldn't understand,” says one personnel director. Says another: “I have no idea what Cleveland was doing. I don't think they do, either.”

## 58. Now that he's a Brownie, won't wide receiver Andre Rison change the balance of power in the AFC Central?

Browns owner Art Modell thinks so. “One guy can make a big difference,” he says. “We're on the verge of breaking through. He's the first home-run hitter we've had in a long time. He is truly a potential Hall-of-Famer. Since Jim Brown, Leroy Kelly, and Paul Warfield, we haven't had the caliber of player of Andre Rison.”

## 59. But how long can the fiery Rison and the NFL's Napoleon, Bill Belichick, co-exist?

“With all due respect to my friends in Atlanta,” Modell says, “with a change of scenery, things improve.”

## 60. Why did Rison choose Cleveland instead of Green Bay or Phoenix?

“Can't you look at me and see how lovable I am?” Modell says. Somehow, we think \$17 million had a little to do with it, too.

## 61. Which team has the best cheerleaders?

The Raiders. Of course, they cheat—everyone knows Hollywood has the best starlets and the best plastic surgeons.

## 62. Is the Raiders' deep passing game antiquated?

It is unless they have great pass protection.

## 63. Do they?

No.

## 64. Will they throw deep anyway?

Yes.

# 65 Won't that get Jeff Hostetler killed again?

Yes, if he continues to hold the ball forever. New coach Mike White will try to convince

JON SCORRO/BERNSTEIN & ASSOC



Hoss to loft the ball and anticipate that his receivers will break open, rather than wait for them to do so.

**66. How does the AFC West race shape up?**

The Raiders have the most talent, and this year they may even exploit it. The Chargers have a slight edge on the Broncos and the Seattle Seahawks for a wild-card berth.

**67. Will new coach Mike Shanahan help the Broncos?**

He'll make a good offense better. But he can't rush the passer, and neither can his players.

**68. Aren't you forgetting the Chiefs?**

No. They're going into free fall. They're replacing Joe Montana, the greatest quarterback ever, with Steve Bono, a guy who's made 11 starts in nine seasons.

**69. But didn't Kansas City bolster its defense by signing three-fourths of the Jets' secondary?**

You obviously didn't see the Jets' secondary last year.

**70. What about the Chiefs' draft?**

Offensive tackle Trezelle Jenkins, a huge underachiever rated a third-rounder by a lot of scouts, was the biggest gamble in the first round. Wideout Tamarick Vanover is another hit-or-miss choice. Potential gets coaches and GMs fired. A shaky run defense wasn't helped. K.C. is taking the express elevator down.

**71. What stat confounds you?**

Try this: How can the Raiders be 10-1 vs. Denver and 1-10 vs. Kansas City, including the playoffs, since 1990? Voodoo dolls?

**72. What are the hot trends?**

The run-and-shoot, the supposed offense of the '90s, will be the base offense of just one team, Atlanta. So Smurf receivers and cornerbacks are out; Harold Carmichael-Mel Blount clones are in.

**73. What about on defense?**

The 3-4, the hot scheme of the '70s and '80s, has been deserted. Only New England, Pittsburgh, Carolina, and Buffalo still use the 3-4, and the Bills might give it up.

**74. Who did the poorest coaching job last season?**

Buddy Ryan. He gave himself an "A," and deserved one for rebuilding the Cardinals defense, but the way he sabotaged a decent offense should be a criminal offense. Has Marcia Clark subpoenaed him?

**75. Should Buddy be called "the Desert Fraud" instead of "the Desert Fox"?**

Buddy still terrorizes offenses. Only now they're his own.

**76. Any other contenders for worst coaching job?**

Plenty. Rich Kotite's Eagles gave up when he did. Jack Pardee (Oilers), Wade Phillips (Broncos), Pete Carroll (Jets), Art Shell (Raiders), and June Jones (Falcons) were too nice and let their teams get away from them. In his first year with the Redskins, Norv Turner made poor free-agent decisions and vacillated at quarterback and halfback.

**77. Who will be the 1995 coach of the year?**

Maybe Ray Rhodes. The Eagles should challenge Arizona for second place in the NFC East and for a wild-card spot. We like Rhodes' tough, bold approach. He saw what he wanted and went after it, hard. Ricky Watters and Kevin Turner vastly improve the backfield, and first-round draft choice Mike Mamula will be a pass-rusher worth the premium Philly paid to get him.

**78. Can Rhodes resurrect Randall Cunningham?**

Rhodes will try with an offensive coordinator, Jon Gruden, who's younger than the quarterback and will be coaching pro QBs for the first time. Rhodes says of Randall: "The quarterbacks in this system have been very successful. It's ideal for him."

**79. But hasn't Randall said in the past that he doesn't like the short passing game?**

"Maybe it's fashionable in Philadelphia to talk about a player's style," Rhodes says. "Fashionable ain't worth — with me." No nonsense, no excuses.

**80 How far can the Chicago Bears go with Erik Kramer and Steve Walsh at quarterback?**

The first round of the playoffs. Dave Wannstedt is a coach, not a magician. Walsh can't throw the hard out pass any better than your kid brother, and Kramer is maddeningly inconsistent.

**Chicago's quarterbeast proves sometimes two heads aren't better than one.**



STEVE WOLTMANN/ALLEN KEE/MICHAEL FONZINI



# '95 NFL Questions

## 81. Can the Detroit Lions win the NFC Central?

They have the same problem as the Bears. They gambled \$11 million on quarterback Scott Mitchell and crapped out last year. Publicly they express faith in Mitchell, but privately they don't know. He played eight games with a sore left (throwing) shoulder before a broken right wrist ended his season. They hope he's healthy and improves his mechanics and performance, but they're frustrated because, as usual, they'll go only as far as their passer takes them.

## 82. After 1992, the Green Bay Packers seemed ready to join San Francisco and Dallas among the NFC elite. What happened?

They were set to be good for a long time before they ran into bad luck: career-ending injuries to several defenders and their best player, Sterling Sharpe; spending the fifth pick in the 1992 draft on Terrell Buckley only to watch him flop when the game changed to favor big cornerbacks; and developing Jackie Harris into an elite tight end only to have Tampa Bay steal him with a monster contract.

## 83. Will Alvin Harper, Kenneth Gant, Warren Sapp, and Derrick Brooks make a difference for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers?

They will when young quarterback Trent Dilfer learns what he's doing and the new coach arrives.

## 84. Can anyone in the NFC West except the 49ers make the playoffs?

No. The 49ers may lap the field.

## 85. Why can't the Falcons win?

They keep picking coaches with girls' names. Marion Campbell went 17-51 in two stints. June Jones went 7-9 in his first season and doesn't figure to get much better.

## 86. How good will the expansion teams be?

Free agency and extra draft picks have given them the best foundation any expansion teams ever had. "They certainly have a lot more salary cap room than I did," says Indianapolis Colts GM Bill Tobin, who inherited a bad club in 1994 and was \$7 million over the cap. "They'll get better quicker than any expansion teams in history. Established teams have lost some of their stars to them, so it's a two-edged sword. Not only has that made the expansion teams better, but it's weakened the teams they're competing with."

## 87. What will the expansion teams look like?

In Jacksonville rookie runner James Stewart will be featured on offense, and the Jaguars will use a 4-3 on defense; the run-

and-shoot will be used as a change-up. Carolina will play a solid 3-4 defense but must find some linemen to pave a path for Barry Foster in the grind-it-out offense it wants to run.

## 88. How did those two teams do in the draft?

They cleaned up. Of course, as one personnel director said, with all those picks "you better do good. Shame on you if you don't." Jacksonville did the better job in the draft, Carolina in free agency.

# 89 Has the league done anything about those silly rules such as fining a player if his socks aren't the right height?

Yes. The No Fun League will yank players off the field until they tuck in their jerseys or pull up their socks. It also contemplated a rule banning bandanas. Conform to the corporation or else.

## 90. What's happened to coaches' job security?

It's gone. They don't last as long as Democratic presidents.

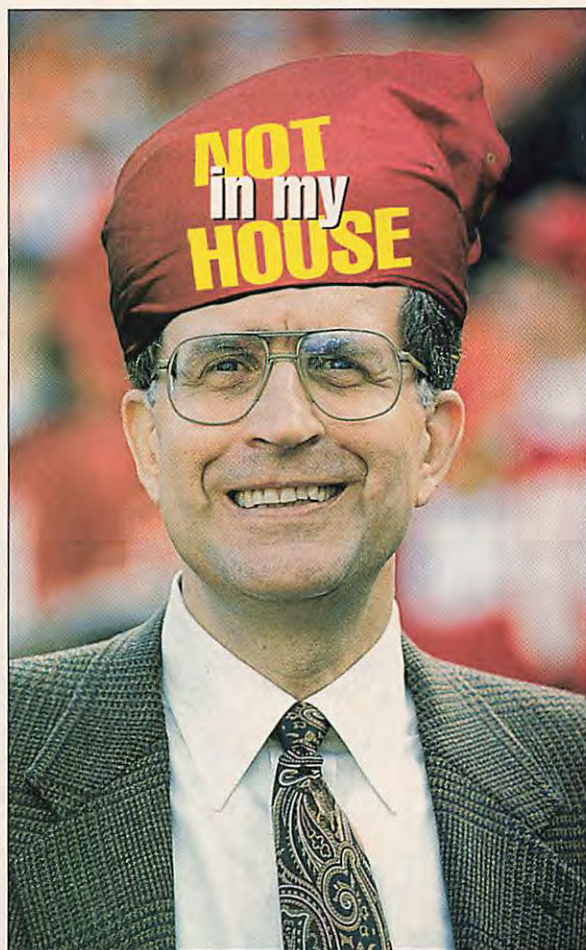
## 91. What coaches are on the hottest seats?

Sam Wyche better reach .500 in Tampa. Don Shula must go a lot further in the playoffs than he has been, or Jimmy Johnson's boat could be docking north of the Florida Keys beginning in 1996. Don's son David is on shaky ground in Cincinnati. Ted Marchibroda's ideas better mesh with those of new Colts offensive coordinator Lindy Infante, or Bill Tobin will be only too happy to promote Infante or Vince Tobin, his brother and defensive coordinator.

## 92. Do you really think Steve Young is a better fantasy pick than Emmitt Smith?

Smith has taken a pounding the past few

years, and it's beginning to catch up with him. He could get nicked even more now that Pro Bowl center Mark Stepnoski has bolted to Houston and Pro Bowl tackle Erik Williams is in trouble. Plus, Emmitt won't carry as much of a load because the Cowboys finally have a competent fill-in, second-round draft choice Sherman Williams.



The Tag rag? It could be the next big thing—if the commish lightens up on sartorial self-expression.

## 93. Who will be the offensive rookie of the year?

Ki-Jana Carter, followed by Joey Galloway, J.J. Stokes, Rashaan Salaam, and Tyrone Wheatley.

## 94. And on defense?

Mike Mamula, Kevin Carter, Derrick Brooks, or Warren Sapp.

## 95. Who said, "If Charles Manson could run 4.3, there would be someone who would probably draft him"?

Cowboys scouting director Larry Lacewell said it. We just wish we had. ■

Senior writer STEVE HUBBARD explored the trends and issues for NFL '95 in last month's INSIDE SPORTS.



Cancel the rehearsal dinner.

Cancel the photographer.

Cancel the band.

Cancel the reception hall.

Keep the church.

We're not anti-drinking.  
We're anti-dying.  
Designate a driver.

S E A G R A M

SOMETIMES DRINKING RESPONSIBLY MEANS NOT DRINKING AT ALL.



**H**E IS ONE OF THOSE RARE people in sports: someone who seems to have no enemies, only friends and admirers. He has played baseball professionally since 1977, through pain and injuries, strikes and lock-outs, losing seasons and lost seasons.

"I have always loved playing the game," Paul Molitor says on a perfect baseball evening in May. "I've always loved coming to the ballpark and putting on the uniform. I've always been able to find joy in the game."

He looks around the Toronto Blue Jays

because of injuries and work stoppages. He is one of the best hitters of his generation, someone who began 1995 with a career batting average of .307, someone who has averaged more than 200 hits for every 162 games he has been able to play.

All those numbers add up to this: When Molitor turns 39 in August, he probably will be a little more than 200 hits shy of 3,000. If he hadn't missed more than 500 games during the first dozen years of his career, he'd be well past 3,000 hits by now. As it is, he started the 1995 season with 2,647.

During the strike, all the talk was about how painful it would have been if Cal Ripken had lost his consecutive-games streak because of the travesty of replacement baseball. Little attention was paid to the fact that the 63 games lost last season and this conceivably could cost Molitor his chance at 3,000 hits.

"Cal's streak received a lot of the attention because all it would have taken was one game to wipe out 14 years of work," Molitor says. "I thought about it myself because it would have been so unfair. But I guess it's true that the chances I lost could

# ...tick...tick... tick...tick...

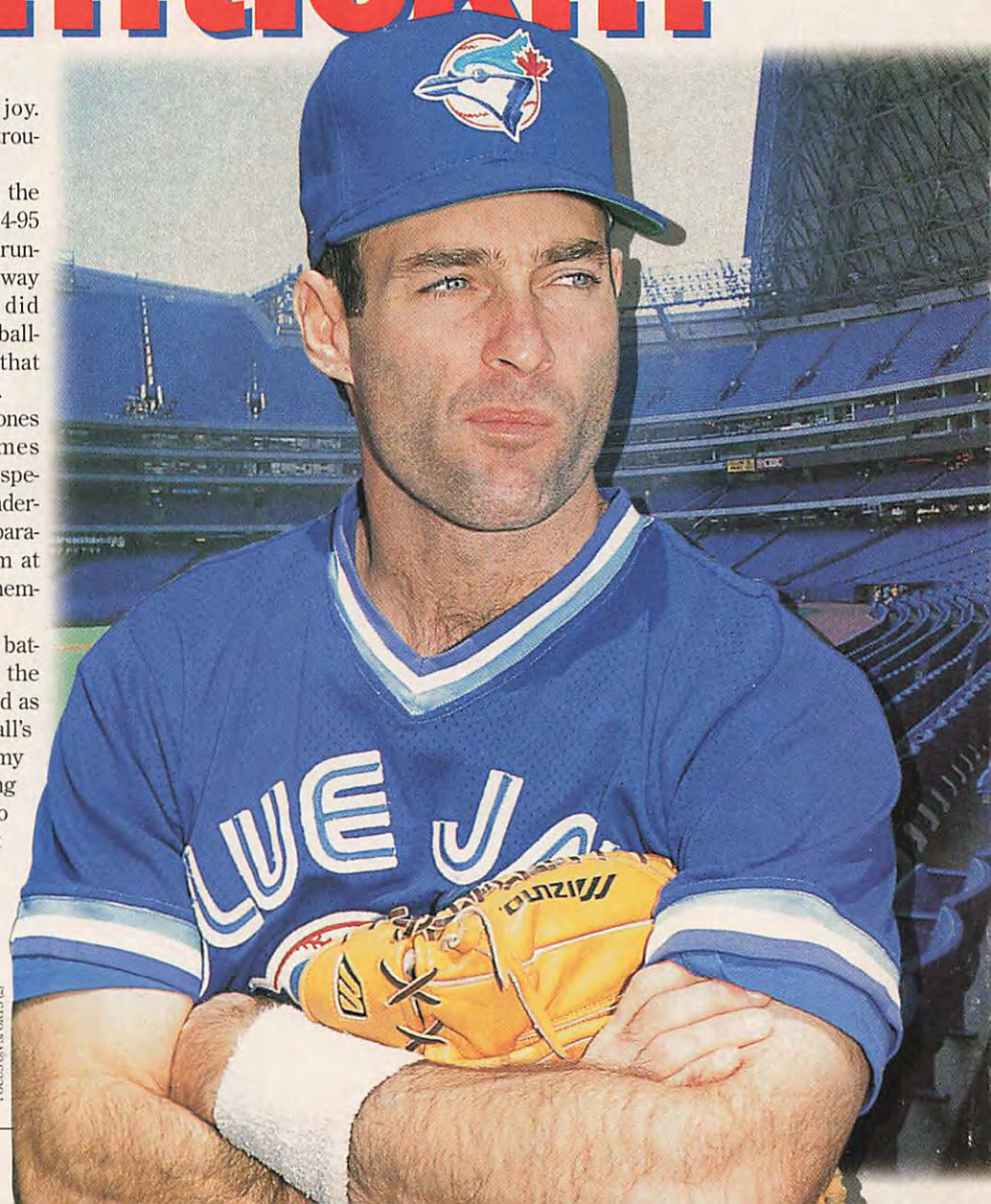
clubhouse as if searching for that joy. "Right now, to be honest, I'm having trouble getting that feeling back."

Even now, as the weather turns hot, the casualties in the baseball strike of 1994-95 are being added. The fans didn't come running back to the game this time the way they had in the past. Those who did brought a sense of bitterness to the ballpark; anger replaced the sweetness that normally is a staple of the early season.

However, the fans weren't the only ones feeling the hangover when the games began again. The players felt it, too—especially older players like Molitor who understand that long hours of preseason preparation are vital to continuing to perform at the level they expect and demand of themselves.

"I still haven't found a hotel with a batting cage," Molitor says, laughing at the memory of all the meetings he attended as one of the senior members of baseball's union. "All of the travel probably hurt my preparation, and so did the short spring training. But that's not the problem so much as not having the feeling I want to have coming to the ballpark every day. It isn't as if you can just flip some switch and say, 'OK, let's dive in and play again.'"

Even as he searches for that feeling of joy, Molitor concedes that he was aware, at least a little bit, of the time lost in a career in which he has missed more than 600 games





cause me to come up a little short.

"You can't fool your biological time clock. Last year, when the strike began, I was going well. I hope I can keep producing for a couple more years that way, but you never know."

To say that Molitor was going well when the strike brought baseball to a halt last August is an understatement. He was crushing the ball: hitting .341 with 155 hits, well on his way to his third 200-hit season in four years (he had 195 in 1992), not to mention a second straight 100-RBI season. And as if to prove that the biological clock wasn't ticking all that loudly, he stole 20 bases without being caught once.

Then came the strike, and all the attendant anger and meetings and offers and counteroffers. If Molitor continues to hit during 1995 and 1996 the way he did during his first two seasons with the Blue Jays, he'll sail past the 3,000-hit mark before '96 is over, sometime shortly after his 40th birthday. However, counting on that kind of production this late in a career is taking a lot for granted.

Molitor acknowledges that the mile-

stone has crossed his mind—and so have the games missed over the years. "Early in my career it seemed as if I couldn't get through a season without going on the disabled list," he says. "It was very frustrating. In '84 [when he played in just 13 games], coming in every day and not being able to contribute was awful. When you're hurt that way there's a feeling of being severed from the team. It isn't anything your teammates do on purpose, but you know and they know that you can't help them, and there's a feeling of being left out."

**I**n part because of the injuries and in part because of the presence of Robin Yount, Molitor was never *the* star during his 15 years with the Milwaukee Brewers. That's ironic, because Molitor is as outgoing and extroverted as Yount is dour and introverted. Yount chafed under the spotlight; Molitor has shone.

As different as they are, Yount and Molitor always have been friends. Molitor has fond memories of Yount's 3,000-hits chase in 1992—perhaps fonder memories than Yount. "He kept saying to me, 'Why is everyone making such a big deal out of this? It's just another hit,'" Molitor recalls. "But when it happened, he understood that it wasn't just another hit, that it was special. The whole thing was kind of neat."

That September night in 1992 in Milwaukee—a baseball town time seems to have forgot—was a special one. When Yount got the hit, Molitor and Jim Gantner, his teammates for more than a decade, were the first people to reach him. "What was amazing," Molitor says, "was that when we hugged him, Robin was so excited, he hugged us back. I couldn't ever remember that happening before."

That was one of Molitor's last nights in a Brewers uniform. When the season ended, team owner Bud Selig decided he had to re-sign Yount, the town icon, even though Yount's best days clearly were behind him. That made it impossible for the Brewers to come up with the money to re-sign Molitor, even though he hit .320 in 1992.

"When you walk in for your first negotiating session, and they tell you they have a \$22 million budget and the payroll is right at \$22 million at that moment, it's a pretty clear sign you're going to have to leave," Molitor says. "That's the hardest thing I've ever had to do professionally. I have so many friends in Milwaukee, and so many fond memories—but as it turned out it was the best thing that could have happened to me."

Molitor harbors no ill will toward Selig, even after all that has gone on during Selig's tenure as baseball's acting commissioner. He refers to his former boss as "Mr.

Selig" and says there are two sides to any negotiation. "It doesn't have to be personal," Molitor says. "You can be an active participant in something like that without being a militant one."

He admits to sadness, though, when he sees the Brewers' probable fate: a bargain-basement team playing in an outdated ballpark, destined, it seems, to a long summer of unfilled seats and unfulfilled hopes. "It's a good baseball town," Molitor says. "We proved that when we had our good teams there. But it's a tough time there right now; it's a tough time in a lot of small markets. None of us likes to see players being traded just for financial reasons."

That is a baseball reality these days: good teams becoming mediocre ones because of money. It's happening in Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Minnesota, Kansas City...the list goes on.

**T**he Blue Jays had all the money the Brewers didn't in that winter before the 1993 season, and Molitor moved to Toronto, where he promptly had his most productive year in the majors. He hit .332, drove in 111 runs, and earned MVP honors in the World Series, even though he was the warm-up act—singling with one out in the 9th inning in Game 6—for Joe Carter's Series-winning three-run homer.

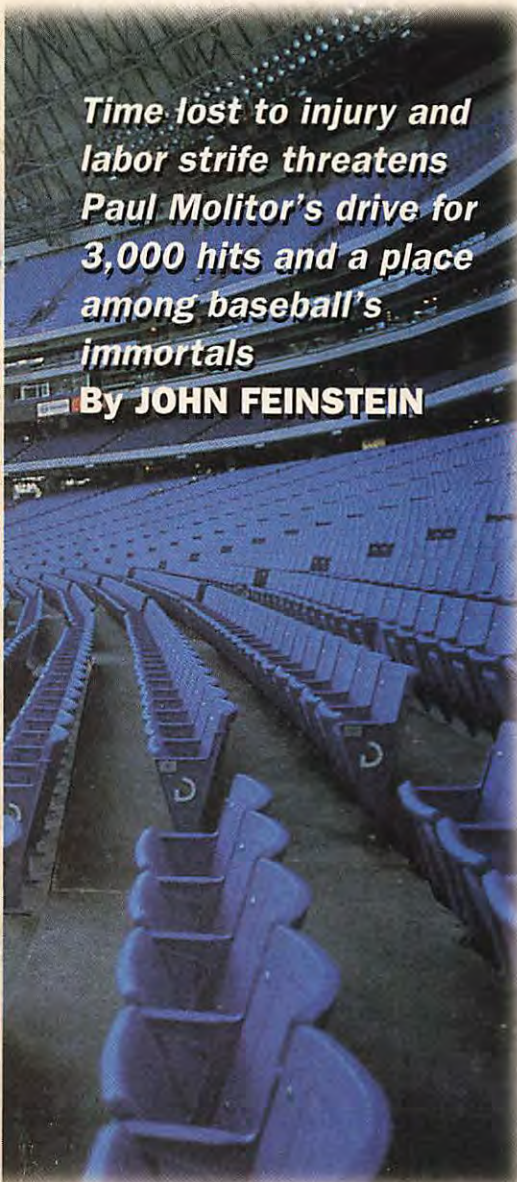
Molitor was playing just as well, perhaps even a little better, when the '94 season was shut down and all the empty nights of late summer and early fall began. Now the games are being played again, and Molitor is searching for his stroke.

Most baseball people take it for granted that he'll keep getting hits and reach 3,000, even with all the at-bats that have been lost. "All the years I pitched I never saw a hitter who could wait the way he does," says Mike Flanagan, who played for 18 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles and the Blue Jays and now is the Orioles pitching coach. "There were times when he was so still I thought he was taking the pitch, and all of a sudden the bat would just whip around and he'd hit a line drive."

Molitor has been hitting those line drives for a long time. The end, he knows, isn't very far down the road. There are wisps of gray in his hair, and he can hear the clock ticking, even in a sport that prides itself on making time stand still.

"The good news is I still get jittery," he says. "I suppose at this point in my career I shouldn't ever feel nervous. I should relax." He smiles. "I'll have plenty of time to relax in a few years."

Molitor picks up a bat and walks out of the clubhouse. He's searching for a few more line drives, and the joy that has always come with them. ■



**Time lost to injury and labor strife threatens Paul Molitor's drive for 3,000 hits and a place among baseball's immortals**

**By JOHN FEINSTEIN**



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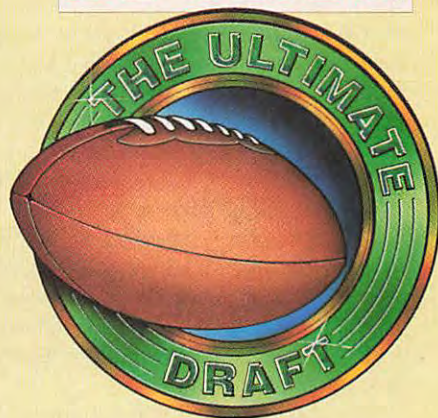
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Two Point Conversion... 2 pts  
(passed, rushed or received)

Receptions...1 pt  
TD Pass...6 pts  
TD Scored...6 pts  
Field Goals...5 pts  
Extra Points...1 pt

**NOTE: Players  
earn points for TDs  
scored on a kick-off  
or punt return but  
not for return  
yardage.**

## Defensive Scoring (Group 09)

Fumble Recoveries... 2 pts  
Interceptions... 2 pts  
Safeties...2 pts  
Sacks... 1 pt  
TD Scored...6 pts (does not  
include kickoff or punt returns)

### Points Allowed

0 - 2 ... 20 pts  
3 - 6 ... 15 pts  
7 - 13 ... 10 pts  
14 - 20 ... 5 pts

**IMPORTANT: Players earn points for any stats they  
are credited with - whether it be for passing, rushing,  
receiving or kicking - regardless of the position they  
play. Points are awarded on a game by game basis.**



Monthly Updates in Inside Sports

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## Pick Your Team

Make ONE (1) selection from each of the 9 groups. Contestants with the highest scores based on their **best 13 of 17 weeks** will be grand prize winners (your 4 lowest weeks are dropped).

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You'll receive 6 updates for each entry. Your first update (received during the week of Sept. 18) will include your player selections, scoring page, trading worksheet, hotline details for trading and weekly updates plus contest rules.

**New**

## More Trades

Starting Tues, Sept. 19, call the Ultimate Draft hotline to trade players and/or hear your current point total and rank (regular long distance charges apply).

Key trading details:

1. You can now make **7 calls** and make up to **3 trades** each time (maximum 1 trading call per week).
2. Players dropped must be replaced with one from the same Group.
3. You can re-acquire players/teams dropped in previous trades.

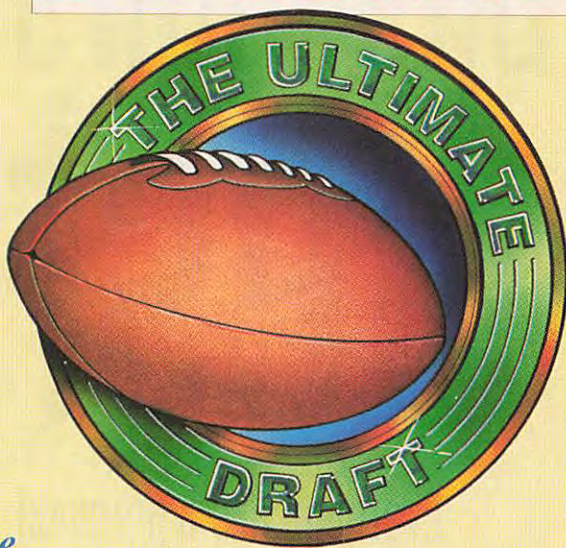
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Make ONE selection from each group. Indicate your selections with an **X**.

Player Points (PTS) are based on 1994 statistics using the Ultimate Draft scoring system and are listed for reference purposes only. Due to publishing deadlines, team designations may not reflect recent changes.

QB (01)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	QB (02)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (03)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	RB (04)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (05)	TEAM	GP	PTS.
1 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Bledsoe	NE	16	336	1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Aikman	DAL	14	197	1 <input type="checkbox"/> K-J. Carter	CIN - Rookie	-	-	1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Allen	MIN	16	185	1 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Brown	LA	16	274
2 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Cunningham	PHI	14	272	2 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Brown	NYG	15	205	2 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Faulk	IND	16	304	2 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Bennett	GB	16	249	2 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Carter	MIN	16	294
3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Elway	DEN	14	287	3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Hostetler	LA	16	281	3 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Foster	PIT	11	148	3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Bettis	STL	16	191	3 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Coates	NE	16	255
4 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Everett	NO	16	294	4 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Humphries	SD	15	234	4 <input type="checkbox"/> N. Means	SD	16	270	4 <input type="checkbox"/> G. Brown	HOU	12	132	4 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Irvin	DAL	16	239
5 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Favre	GB	16	387	5 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Kelly	BUF	14	270	5 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Sanders	DET	16	309	5 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Hampton	NYG	14	170	5 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Mathis	ATL	16	315
6 <input type="checkbox"/> J. George	ATL	16	296	6 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Kreig	ARZ	8	157	6 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Smith	DAL	15	365	6 <input type="checkbox"/> L. Hoard	CLE	16	233	6 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Moore	DET	16	255
7 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Marino	MIA	16	370	7 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Miler	SEA	13	169	7 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Thomas	BUF	15	248	7 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Johnson	NYJ	16	195	7 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Reed	BUF	16	278
8 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Moon	MIN	15	290	8 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Mitchell	DET	9	127	8 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Warren	SEA	16	296	8 <input type="checkbox"/> E. Rhett	TB	16	179	8 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Rice	SF	16	363
9 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Young	SF	16	444	9 <input type="checkbox"/> V. Testaverde	CLE	14	215	9 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Watters	PHI	16	292	9 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Williams	LA	16	229	9 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Rison	CLE	14	240
REC (06)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	REC (07)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	K (08)	TEAM	GP	PTS.	DEFENSE (09)							
1 <input type="checkbox"/> F. Barnett	PHI	16	221	1 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Anderson	IND	15	172	1 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Andersen	NO	16	172	1 <input type="checkbox"/> Arizona							
2 <input type="checkbox"/> B. Blades	SEA	16	219	2 <input type="checkbox"/> V. Brisby	NE	14	178	2 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Bahr	NE	16	171	2 <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland							
3 <input type="checkbox"/> H. Ellard	WSH	15	250	3 <input type="checkbox"/> W. Davis	KC	13	165	3 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Carney	SD	16	203	3 <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas							
4 <input type="checkbox"/> I. Fryar	MIA	16	246	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Q. Early	NO	15	196	4 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Christie	BUF	16	158	4 <input type="checkbox"/> Green Bay							
5 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Haynes	NO	16	210	5 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Harper	TB	14	163	5 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Elam	DEN	16	179	5 <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City							
6 <input type="checkbox"/> A. Miller	DEN	15	203	6 <input type="checkbox"/> T. Martin	SD	16	181	6 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Jaeger	LA	16	141	6 <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota							
7 <input type="checkbox"/> C. Pickens	CIN	15	250	7 <input type="checkbox"/> R. Moore	ARZ	16	219	7 <input type="checkbox"/> N. Johnson	ATL	16	137	7 <input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh							
8 <input type="checkbox"/> J. Reed	MIN	16	227	8 <input type="checkbox"/> D. Scott	CIN	16	175	8 <input type="checkbox"/> F. Reveiz	MIN	16	200	8 <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego							
9 <input type="checkbox"/> S. Sharpe	DEN	14	216	9 <input type="checkbox"/> M. Timpson	CHI	14	188	9 <input type="checkbox"/> P. Stoyanovich	MIA	16	155	9 <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco							

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# Baseball's Best

Everyone has a personal favorite, but we've gone right to the source—the pro scouts themselves—to find out who's really the cream of the crop in the major leagues. Here's what the men who make their living evaluating talent have to say at midseason about the diamond's most dominant forces

By **TRACY RINGOLSBY**

**1 Tom Kelly, Minnesota Twins.** Small-market teams *can* win: The Twins proved that by capturing the World Series in 1987 and in 1991. Their field leader was Kelly, who had a 15-year apprenticeship in the minors as a player, coach, and manager.

Scout: "He has the ability to run the game, leaving no doubts about who is in charge, but he does it without getting in the way of his players' enjoyment of the game. His teams always are fundamentally sound.

*They don't make mistakes, so they never give you a four-out or five-out inning."*

**2 Jim Leyland, Pittsburgh Pirates.** After a long apprenticeship, Leyland took over a last-place Pittsburgh team in 1986 and led it to three consecutive NL East titles (1990-92).

Scout: "He's had to endure more than any other manager—seeing what he built torn apart without any chance to salvage it. It's a tribute to him that for all that's gone on there the Pirates have your respect when they take the field. It's not a coincidence that players get better after they have been in Pittsburgh."

**3 Tony La Russa, Oakland Athletics.** La Russa was a journeyman infielder as a player but bloomed as a manager. His teams have won five division titles, three AL pennants, and the 1989 World Series.

Scout: "Tony has had all types of teams. He had a rag-tag group in Chicago, and they won. He took over a team in Oakland that was just about ready to blossom, and he took it to the next level. Now he's dealing with an aging team, trying to retool. There is nobody better



TOM DIPACE

## MANAGERS

Tom Kelly

*prepared—you're not going to catch him by surprise."*

**4 Buck Showalter, New York Yankees.** When he became Yankees skipper at the age of 35 he already had five years of minor league managerial experience. He guided the Yankees to an American League-best 70-43 record in '94.

Scout: "He does a great job of filtering out the 'Boss factor.' Every other manager who has been there let George control their emotions and the club's emotions. Buck keeps the focus on playing baseball."

**5 Felipe Alou, Montreal Expos.** Alou was a .286 hitter in a 17-year big-league career, then he spent 12 years managing in the minor leagues before getting the Expos position in 1992. In 1994 he led Montreal to a 74-40 record, the best in the majors.

Scout: "Felipe doesn't make excuses. He doesn't whine. He just wins. He's got the worst situation in baseball: Every time he gets a star, he loses him. He plays the kids, builds their confidence, wins, and then watches the ownership sell them off."

**NEXT:** Cito Gaston, Toronto Blue Jays. **RISEING:** Dusty Baker, San Francisco Giants.

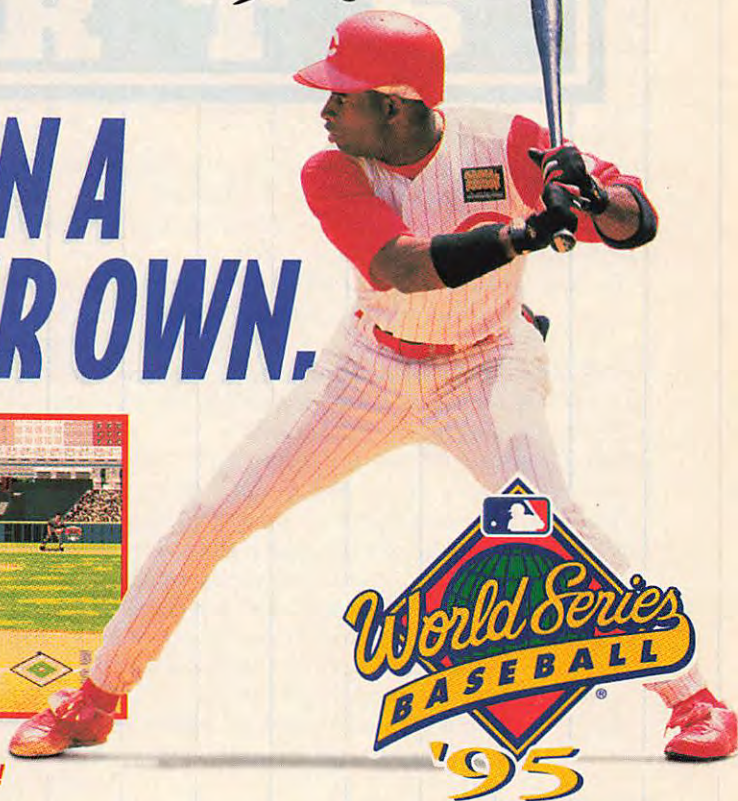
**FALLING:** Sparky Anderson, Detroit Tigers.



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**1 Frank Thomas, Chicago White Sox.** In 1994 "Big Hurt" joined Ted Williams and Lou Gehrig as the only players to go four straight years with at least a .300 average, 20 home runs, 100 RBIs, 100 walks, and 100 runs scored—and those were Thomas' first four full seasons.

Scout: "He doesn't hit the pitch behind his head very well. He's a modern-day Ted Williams—he has that combination of power and knowledge of the strike zone. Defensively, his arm and quickness

## FIRST BASEMEN

### Frank Thomas

are problems, but he's worked hard to learn to play first adequately."

**2 Jeff Bagwell, Houston Astros.**

In 1994 Bagwell won the National League MVP award and—despite playing third base until 10 days before his 1991 big-

league debut—a Gold Glove. He got off to a slow start in '95 but remains one of the game's most respected hitters.

Scout: "The power potential always was there—he's one of the strongest people in the game—but he's finally showing the confidence to turn on the pitch and hit it out of the park. He lacks the size you look for in a first baseman, but if you get the ball in the neighborhood he'll find a way to catch it."

**3 Mark McGwire, Oakland Athletics.** Healthy again after missing much of the past two seasons, he is re-establishing himself as one of the pre-eminent power hitters in the majors.

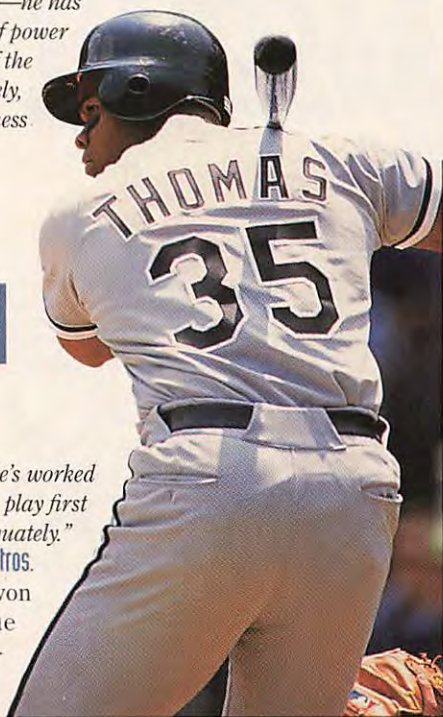
Scout: "If he can stay healthy—and that's a big 'if'—he's as legitimate a power hitter as you're going to find. He can be too selective, looking for that pitch to drive, especially for a guy with the power to go with the pitch away and hit it out of most ballparks. Defensively, he can dig out balls in the dirt, but when he's moving his hands don't work."

**4 Fred McGriff, Atlanta Braves.** He's one of nine players ever to post seven consecutive 30-homer seasons—the others are in the Hall of Fame. McGriff also has 405 RBIs the past four seasons.

Scout: "You can write it down right now: He's going to have 30-plus home runs, 90-plus RBIs, and god knows how many walks. Pitch him away and he hits it out of the yard to left; pitch him in and he pulls it out."

**5 Mo Vaughn, Boston Red Sox.** He's been on the rise as a hitter the past two years, and this season Vaughn ranks among the home run and RBI leaders in the American League.

Scout: "This guy has genuine bat speed. He's come a long way because he has learned that, with his power, he can use all fields. Now that he'll go with pitches, he has become a challenge for pitchers. Defensively—well, he'd be a great DH. He just doesn't move very fluidly, and his hands are stiff."



**1 Roberto Alomar, Toronto Blue Jays.** At least two years before Ryne Sandberg retired, he had been passed by Alomar as the game's best at his position. And the 27-year-old Alomar is just reaching the prime of his career.

Scout: "I don't know what more you could want him to do except carry the bats. He has the perfect tools to play on artificial surface, offensively and defensively. He hits to all fields and can drive the ball, plus he has great range and a strong arm."

**2 Craig Biggio, Houston Astros.** He's the only player ever to win All-Star recognition as both a catcher and a second baseman. Biggio combines speed (a National League-leading 39 stolen bases in 1994) and extra-base power, and he was a Gold Glove winner last season.

Scout: "A great athlete, and he gets better every year because he's pushed himself. He's one of those unique guys who can hit in any of the top three spots in the lineup. He has above-average speed and base-stealing knowledge, and he can drive the ball. He's capable of hitting 20 home runs."

**3 Chuck Knoblauch, Minnesota Twins.** He has power to the alleys and a glove that's nearly the equal of Alomar's. Knoblauch also is the Twins' best base-stealer since Rod Carew.

Scout: "If I had a team full of Knoblauchs, I'd feel good about the club. He's knows how to play the game, and he does everything right. He always seems to hit the infield hole whether he inside-outs a pitch or pulls it. Because he drives the ball, everything he hits on the ground goes through."

**4 Carlos Baerga, Cleveland Indians.** Baerga and Rogers Hornsby are the only second basemen in history to bat .300 with 200 hits, 20 home runs, and 100 RBIs in a season. Originally a third baseman, Baerga does adequate glove work on the right side of the infield, but his bat pays the bills.

Scout: "He's a great offensive player but has been inconsistent on defense; sometimes he takes the bat into the field with him. I don't know if he ever will be a great defensive player—he's too stiff, and his hands aren't soft enough."

**5 Bret Boone, Cincinnati Reds.** Both his grandfather and his father were All-Star players,

## SECOND BASEMEN

### Roberto Alomar

ers, and he is developing into one. Though not big in stature, Boone has the bat of a run-producer. He's an adequate defender.

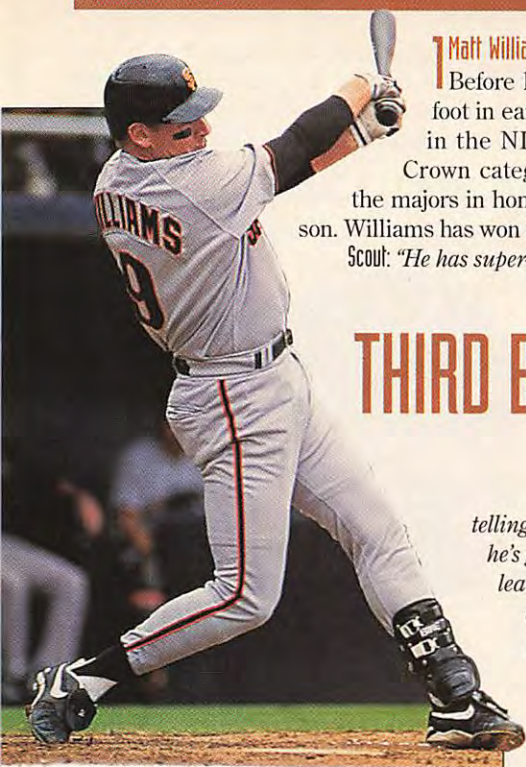
Scout: "I don't think he'll hit .320 again, but he has the pop in his bat to hit maybe 18 homers and drive in 80 runs. He'll shoot the ball to right field, and if he's ahead in the count you better not make a mistake, because he'll jump on it and hit it out. Defensively, he's a little stiff, but he has good arm strength and gets the job done."



NEXT: Rafael Palmeiro, Baltimore Orioles. RISING: Rico Brogna, New York Mets.  
FALLING: Cecil Fielder, Detroit Tigers.

NEXT: Rey Sanchez, Chicago Cubs. RISING: Quilvio Veras, Florida Marlins.  
FALLING: Robbie Thompson, San Francisco Giants.





JON SOOHOO/BERNSTEIN ASSOC.

**1 Matt Williams, San Francisco Giants.** Before he suffered a broken foot in early June he was No. 1 in the NL in all three Triple Crown categories, after leading the majors in home runs (43) last season. Williams has won three Gold Gloves. Scout: "He has super-plus power. There's no

## THIRD BASEMEN

Matt Williams

telling how many home runs he's going to hit because he learns more about hitting every year. The biggest problem he has is that he's so hard on himself. When he begins to struggle offensively, he starts pressing

because he expects so much from himself. Defensively, he has outstanding hands and a tremendous arm."

**2 Robin Ventura, Chicago White Sox.** Ventura has developed into a power threat—four consecutive years of at least 16 home runs—with-out losing his plate patience. He's also a three-time Gold Glove winner; don't read too much into his disastrous opening week in the field this season.

Scout: "He's a winner, this generation's George Brett. He drives the ball to all fields and is going to continue to be more of a power threat as he gets comfortable with himself. He has a strong arm that he has to control some, but he makes plays other guys don't think of."

**3 Ken Caminiti, San Diego Padres.** Caminiti finally earned All-Star recognition in 1994, but he hasn't received the Gold Glove he deserves. The Astrodome hid his power, but now that he's out of Houston expect him to have his first 20-home run season.

Scout: "He's an unknown star, a switch-hitter with power from both sides. He has the potential to hit .300 with 15 to 20 home runs, and his defense is unbelievable. He has such a tremendous arm that he can play deeper than any other man at his position."

**4 Travis Fryman, Detroit Tigers.** A three-time All-Star, he was headed for a fourth straight season of 20 homers and 90 RBIs until the strike hit in 1994. Fryman went to the major leagues as a shortstop and is developing into an adequate third baseman.

Scout: "He has streaks where he doesn't hit pitchers he should, and then periods when he can hit anybody. His work ethic should allow him to make the adjustments to be a better contact hitter. Defensively, he has good hands and a great arm, but average range. Most of his errors come because he doesn't get his feet right and he throws off balance."

**5 Ed Sprague, Toronto Blue Jays.** Now in his third season as a regular, Sprague is developing into a consistent run-producer with home-run power. Defensively, he has fine hands and a strong arm.

Scout: "He's learning to emphasize his strength: hitting the ball to the left-center and right-center gaps, rather than trying to pull everything.

He has enough bat speed to wait on pitches, and if the pitcher hangs the curveball he can turn on it."

NEXT: Jim Thome, Cleveland Indians. RISING: Chipper Jones, Atlanta Braves.  
FALLING: Terry Pendleton, Florida Marlins.

**1 Barry Larkin, Cincinnati Reds.** A six-time All-Star, Larkin won his first Gold Glove in 1994. He can hit first or third in the lineup and has established himself as a legitimate .300 hitter, reaching that mark in five of the past six seasons.

Scout: "The total package; extremely aggressive offensively and defensively. In the field he has good range and an accurate arm. With the bat he's strong enough to drive the ball in any direction. He hits for average, moves runners, drives in runs, and can beat you with a stolen base."

**2 Cal Ripken, Baltimore Orioles.** The Ironman. Ripken, the AL MVP in 1983 and 1991, isn't spectacular in the field, but he's the model of consistency, which has earned him two Gold Gloves. He holds the career record for home runs by a shortstop.

Scout: "If you had Ripken at 25, he's the guy you would want to start your team with. He used to be a first-pitch hitter with men in scoring position, but he has become more patient and better in the clutch. Defensively, he understands what the pitcher is trying to do with the hitter. You watch him set up in the hole, and the next pitch he's up the middle. His arm is well above average."

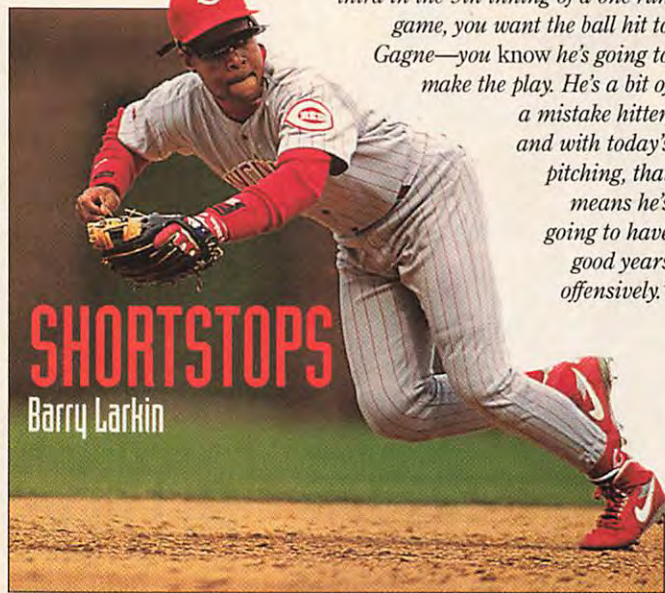
**3 Wil Cordero, Montreal Expos.** He was an All-Star in 1994, his second full season in the big leagues. Cordero remains inconsistent in the field, but he shows the swing to be a legitimate force on offense. He's capable of 20-plus home runs and stolen bases.

Scout: "He really has developed offensively the last two years. He has some pop in his bat and can handle it well enough to hit and run. Defensively, he's erratic, but he has the tools to be outstanding. He can cover ground and has that strong arm you want from a shortstop."

**4 Greg Gagne, Kansas City Royals.** A steady defender with an excellent arm, he averaged just 13 errors over the past five seasons. Gagne has surprising pop in his bat and runs better than average.

Scout: "With two outs and a runner on third in the 9th inning of a one-run game, you want the ball hit to Gagne—you know he's going to make the play. He's a bit of

a mistake hitter, and with today's pitching, that means he's going to have good years offensively."



TOM DIPACE

## SHORTSTOPS

Barry Larkin

**5 Royce Clayton, San Francisco Giants.** Scouts long have referred to Clayton as the next Barry Larkin, and he is growing into a Larkin-like player. He hasn't hit with as much power as Larkin has, but that dimension should be forthcoming.

Scout: "Clayton plays better every time you see him. He's getting stronger and has more pop in his bat. Most of all, he's more consistently defensively. He has the quick release, strong arm, and soft hands you want in a shortstop. He's just making the turn to being a real good player."

NEXT: Omar Vizquel, Cleveland Indians. RISING: Jose Offerman, Los Angeles Dodgers.  
FALLING: Ozzie Smith, St. Louis Cardinals.



**1 Larry Walker, Colorado Rockies.** Walker drives the ball with power to all fields, and the two-time Gold Glove winner has the arm and range to play the wide-open spaces of right field in Coors Field, the Rockies' new home.

Scout: "A hard-nosed player. He can hit the ball out of the park to all fields, he can hit for average, and he isn't intimidated by lefties—he'll pull them more regularly than he does righthanders, but then lefties seem to challenge him more inside. He has tremendous arm strength and outstanding accuracy. No one ever challenges him."

**2 Raul Mondesi, Los Angeles Dodgers.** He was the National League rookie of the year for 1994—the third consecutive Dodger to win the award—and he is playing even better this season.

Scout: "He has all the tools you look for in a player. At the plate he remembers and adjusts. Your best hope is to work him away and then bust him in on the hands—but you better bust him off the plate in, or he's going to kill you with his power. Defensively—what an arm."

**3 Tony Gwynn, San Diego Padres.** In 1994 Gwynn won his fifth batting title by hitting .394, the NL's highest average since Bill Terry's .401 in 1930. Gwynn hasn't hit less than .300 since arriving in the big leagues for good in 1983.

Scout: "He's a tireless worker, which is why he's such a good hitter and also why he does so well in right field. He's a tremendous pure hitter—nothing but line drives. Throw him away and he'll line it to left; come inside and he'll yank the ball down the line. He never gets himself out.

Knee problems have cut down on his speed, but he has such good instincts it isn't visible."

**4 Manny Ramirez, Cleveland Indians.** Just 23, he could well be the game's fastest-rising star. Entering June, Ramirez was among the AL leaders in average, home runs, and runs batted in.

Scout: "He has '7' power now ['8' is the top of the scale] and is going to get better. He's so strong and his bat is so quick, he can wait until the ball's right on top of him and still lace a line drive into right field. He's just OK on defense, but if he works at it he can be a plus outfielder."

**5 Kirby Puckett, Minnesota Twins.** Puckett, a notorious streak

## RIGHT FIELDERS

### Larry Walker

hitter, has batted .317 or better in

seven of the past nine seasons. He led the AL with 112 RBIs in '94.

Scout: "Kirby gets anxious once in a while and gets himself out more than other teams get him out, but when he's hot he can be awesome.

The move from center to right has made it easier on him—he's a plus defensively out there."

NEXT: David Justice, Atlanta Braves. RISING: Tim Salmon, California Angels.

FALLING: Ruben Sierra, Oakland Athletics.

**1 Ken Griffey Jr., Seattle Mariners.** Some baseball insiders say the 25-year-old Griffey, already a five-time All-Star, has passed Barry Bonds as the game's best player. "Junior" is on the shelf for now; he broke his left wrist in May and was expected to be out of action for three months.

Scout: "He's one you'd pay to see play. He truly is capable of beating you five ways, with hitting, running, throwing, fielding, and power. He can hit any type of pitching and has the power to hit it out anywhere.

He glides in the outfield; he's as much fun to watch

## CENTER FIELDERS

### Ken Griffey Jr.

in the field as he is with the bat in his hands."

**2 Henny Lofton, Cleveland Indians.** He has led the AL in stolen bases in each of his three

big-league seasons and is a two-time Gold Glove winner. Perhaps the fastest player in professional baseball.

Scout: "At bat, he's learned to make contact, and he's not just a ping hitter—he can drive the ball. In the field, he charges the ball extremely well, has an accurate arm, and gets a great jump. He has unlimited base-stealing potential if he doesn't lose his desire to steal. That's always a concern, because you beat your body up so much."

**3 Marquis Grissom, Atlanta Braves.** With his speed, Grissom could win a batting title if he learns to get a few more walks, and he has enough power to bat in the No. 3 spot in the order.

Scout: "He plays the shallowest center field in baseball, because with his tremendous speed, range, and arm he can turn and get the ball. At the plate he can bunt for a hit or hit the ball out of the park. A tremendous base-stealer, he puts pressure on the defense all the time."

**4 Devon White, Toronto Blue Jays.** A six-time Gold Glove winner, White provides critical defense in an otherwise ordinary Blue Jays outfield. He shows occasional power and is a base-stealing threat.

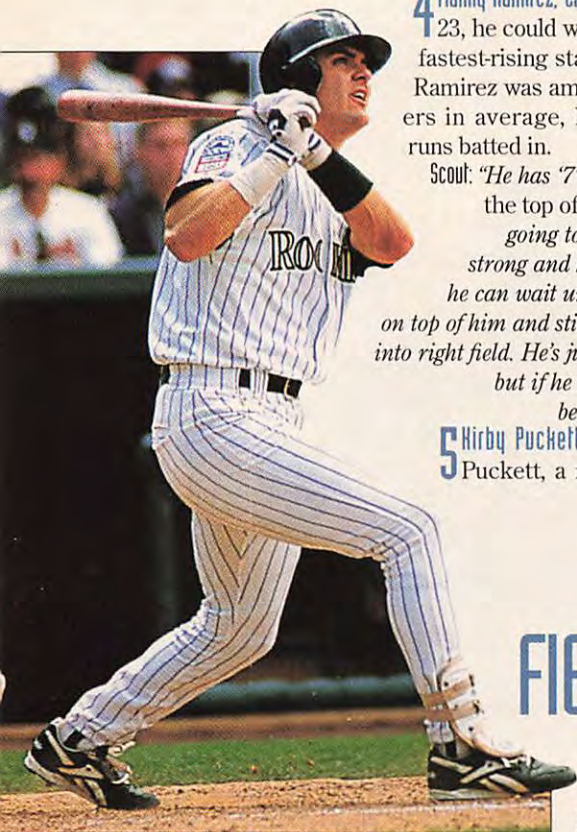
Scout: "It's a treat to watch him racing in the gaps and going back to the fence to make home-run-robbing catches. He can create havoc on the bases, but he doesn't get on enough to hit at the top of the order, which is where the Blue Jays force him to bat."

**5 Lenny Dykstra, Philadelphia Phillies.** Dykstra played a career-high 161 games in 1993, and the Phillies won the NL pennant. A coincidence? From 1991 to '94 the Phils were 212-180 with Dykstra on the active roster and 85-123 when he was disabled.

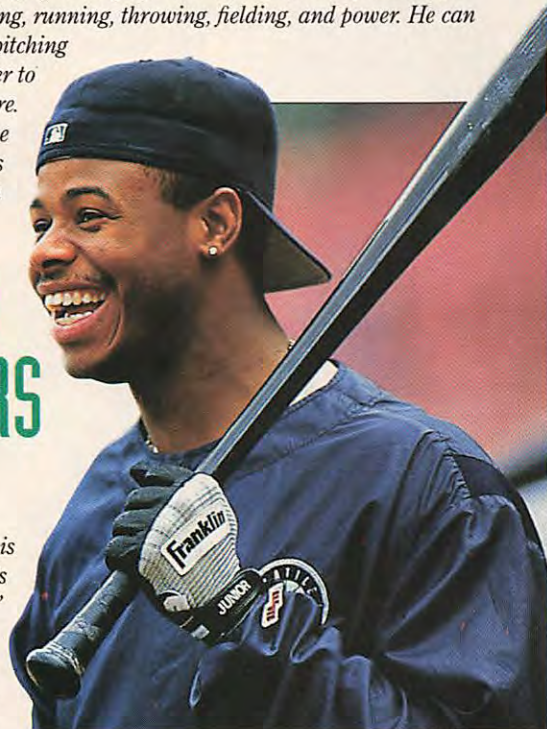
Scout: "The best leadoff hitter in the game. Every time you get him out, you've earned it. He's a tremendous on-field leader. Whatever it takes, he'll do it. He might not be as smooth as the other center fielders and might not have as good an arm, but he doesn't ever give up."

NEXT: Brian McRae, Chicago Cubs. RISING: Deion Sanders, Cincinnati Reds.

FALLING: Andy Van Slyke, Baltimore Orioles.



TIM JACKSON



TOM DIPACE



**1 Barry Bonds, San Francisco Giants.** The player of the '90s, with three MVPs in the past five seasons. Bonds is the only player in history to average 30 home runs, 100 RBIs, and 40 stolen bases over a four-year period (1990 to '93). A five-time Gold Glove winner.

**Scout:** "The best defensive left fielder in the game and the most dangerous hitter. He plays shallow, daring you to hit the ball over his head; he has the ability to go to the line; and he has an accurate arm. At the plate, he's a leader, the guy who wants to be up there with the game on the line. Bonds is the kind of hitter you might walk with the bases loaded."

**2 Albert Belle, Cleveland Indians.** Belle has enormous power, and he has refined his swing and developed into a .300 hitter. He's the Indians' most dangerous hitter since Rocky Colavito in the late '50s.

**Scout:** "He's awesome with a bat in his hands. He's extremely strong and has tremendous drive. He's taking defense seriously and is working to be an average outfielder. He can get himself worked up emotionally—I won't say he's mellowed, but he has gotten a lot better."

**3 Ron Gant, Cincinnati Reds.** Healthy now after a broken leg sidelined him for 1994, he's resuming a career in which he's twice had seasons of 30-plus home runs and stolen bases.

**Scout:** "Pitch him on the inner half of the plate—and duck. He looks to turn on everything, and if he gets his pitch he can hit it a mile. His speed isn't all the way back, though he's running OK. He does a decent job in left but can get turned around."

**4 Joe Carter, Toronto Blue Jays.** He has been the most consistent run-producer in the major leagues for a decade. Carter has driven in 100 or more runs in eight of the past nine seasons, and he hasn't hit fewer than 24 home runs since 1987.

**Scout:** "His power comes in streaks, but he's consistent in the clutch day in and day out. His biggest adjustment over the years is that he has learned to fight some pitches off. As a left fielder he has a plus arm."

**5 Moises Alou, Montreal Expos.** Alou no longer has Marquis Grissom and Larry Walker in the lineup with him, but he continues to be a productive hitter. He can play any of the outfield positions.

**Scout:** "There's no telling how good he'll be. He didn't play baseball until he got to junior college, and he's still learning. He has

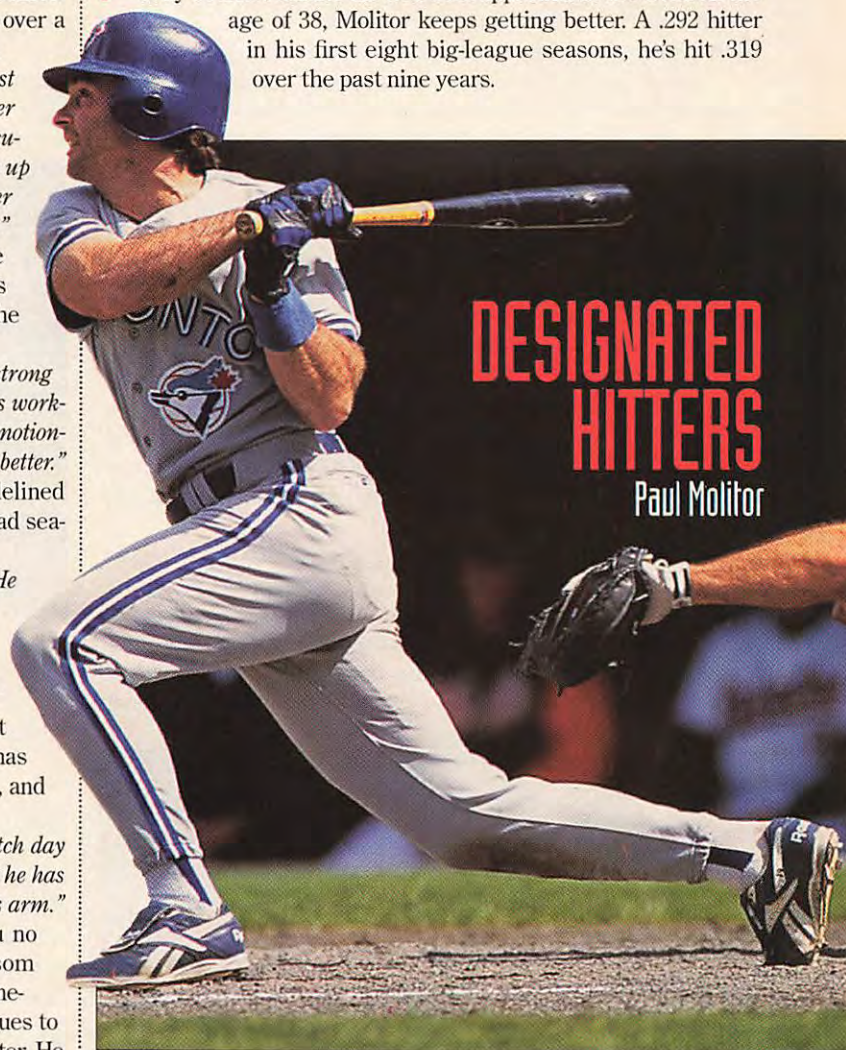
## LEFT FIELDERS

Barry Bonds

solid power to all fields, and he never makes a mental mistake."

**NEXT:** Tim Lincecum, Seattle Mariners.  
**RISEING:** Ryan Klesko, Atlanta Braves.  
**FALLING:** Rickey Henderson, Oakland Athletics.

**1 Paul Molitor, Toronto Blue Jays.** The perfect designated hitter; Molitor's body couldn't handle his hell-bent approach in the field. At the age of 38, Molitor keeps getting better. A .292 hitter in his first eight big-league seasons, he's hit .319 over the past nine years.



## DESIGNATED HITTERS

Paul Molitor

SCOTT JORDAN LEVY

**Scout:** "One of the best hitters of the past decade. Molitor is as aggressive with two strikes as he is when he's ahead in the count. He has enough versatility with his bat and his speed to hit first or third on a contending team. He approaches defense the same way he does hitting, but problems with his left shoulder make the DH role ideal for him."

**2 Edgar Martinez, Seattle Mariners.** Martinez won the 1992 American League batting title, but injuries cut into his playing time the past two years and led the Mariners to move him off third base into the DH role.

**Scout:** "He has accepted being a DH, which is the biggest battle in that position. He has one of those magic wands for a bat: He can make contact with just about any pitch you throw him, and if he gets a fastball he can turn on, he will thrill you. Martinez is a smart hitter. He realizes his strength and is willing to go the other way with pitches."

**3 Chili Davis, California Angels.** Davis is 35, but the Angels thought enough of his leadership and bat to give him a three-year contract to provide stability for their youth movement. Entering June, he was among the league leaders in batting and RBIs.

**Scout:** "This guy is what the DH is all about. He was adequate, at best, defensively when he was younger; now it's an adventure to watch him go into the field. He's a switch-hitter with power from both sides of the plate. He's willing to take a walk if he doesn't get his pitch."

**NEXT:** Jose Canseco, Boston Red Sox. **RISEING:** Geronimo Berroa, Oakland Athletics.  
**FALLING:** Danny Tartabull, New York Yankees.



TOM DIPACE



**1 Mike Piazza, Los Angeles Dodgers.** He's only the second player in Dodgers history to hit at least 20 homers in each of his first two years in the big leagues—and he had 90-plus RBIs both seasons, as well.

Scout: "Everyone talks about Piazza's offense, but he's pushed himself to become a solid defensive catcher. Offensively, he has tremendous strength, particularly in his hands. He can—and will—drive the ball to right field with power. His only below-average tool is his speed, but that's no big deal for a power-hitting catcher."

**2 Darren Daulton, Philadelphia Phillies.** He had 20-plus home runs and 100-plus RBIs in 1992 and '93, and was on pace for a career year in 1994 when he suffered a broken collarbone in June, his seventh stint on the disabled list in 10 years.

Scout: "He's always been a good defensive catcher, and he's made himself a middle-of-the-lineup threat. When he's in one of those streaks where he's hitting to all fields, you can't pitch to him because he's so strong."

You'd love to have him, but he plays so hard you know he's going to be out for a stretch every year with an injury."

**3 Terry Steinbach, Oakland Athletics.** He's consistently above 35% in throwing out runners trying to steal. Steinbach hits best when runners are in scoring position—.315 in '94.

Scout: "Steinbach is a dangerous clutch hitter, a winning player. He isn't a stylist, but I like the way he's maximized his ability. He's made himself an above-average major-leaguer. His arm isn't great, but it's very accurate, and his throwing has improved every year."

**4 Ivan Rodriguez, Texas Rangers.** He's getting better with the bat—.298, 16 home runs last year—and has maybe the strongest arm among all catchers. He's only 23—imagine how good he might become if he decided to work at the job.

## CATCHERS

### Mike Piazza

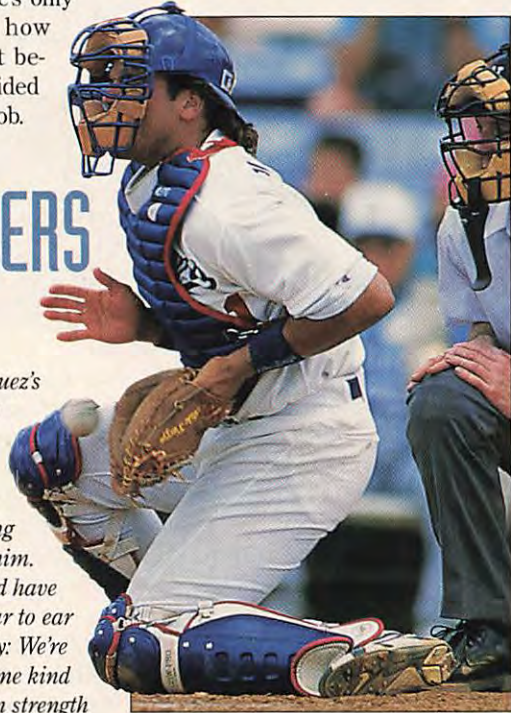
Scout: "Rodriguez's play isn't always consistent. He always looks like something is bothering him."

He should have a smile ear to ear every day. We're talking some kind of arm strength and agility, and power

potential, too. But he doesn't control a game the way he should."

**5 Ron Harkovice, Chicago White Sox.** Defense is his forte. The mere threat of his strong arm prevents opponents from playing a running game. He's a marginal hitter, but he does show occasional power.

Scout: "As big as he is, he has agility, and he has a rifle for an arm. He's not as flashy as the hotdog in Texas [Ivan Rodriguez], but for consistency there's nobody who comes close. If only he could become a little more consistent with the bat—if he could hit .250 you'd crawl on your knees to have him on your team."

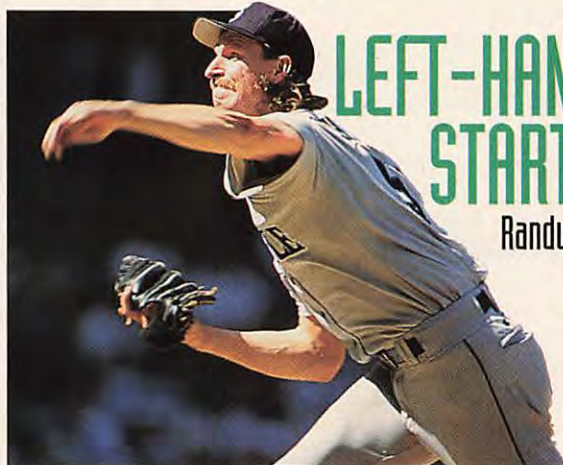


FOCUS ON SPORTS

NEXT: Tom Pagnozzi, St. Louis Cardinals. RISING: Javier Lopez, Atlanta Braves.  
FALLING: Benito Santiago, Cincinnati Reds.

**1 Randy Johnson, Seattle Mariners.** The most overpowering pitcher in the game. Johnson is the first pitcher in 20 years to lead the majors in strikeouts for three consecutive seasons (1992 to '94) and the first in history to average 10 strikeouts per nine innings for four consecutive seasons.

Scout: "There's no one better in the big leagues in terms of pure velocity."



TOM DIPACE

## LEFT-HANDED STARTERS

### Randy Johnson

It's easy to say a guy who has the dominating stuff he has should win every time out—there's more to pitching than that, and he's made progress in learning the art. His arm angle makes it nearly impossible for a left-handed hitter to hit him, and he has that devastating slider you don't pick up until it's too late."

**2 Tom Glavine, Atlanta Braves.** Glavine's 99 victories in the past six seasons are more than anybody else in the bigs has over that stretch except for Greg Maddux.

Scout: "Tremendous control is his strength. He has the best change-up in the league and enough of a fastball to keep hitters off-balance. He also has an above-average curveball, but the change-up is the pitch that does the job. He has such tremendous arm action that even if you're looking for the change, he can get you out front, swinging wildly."

**3 Wilson Alvarez, Chicago White Sox.** Too emotional on the mound in his younger days, Alvarez established himself in the Sox rotation over the past two seasons and earned an All-Star selection in '94.

Scout: "The Sox have done a good job making Alvarez better each year. He's on the threshold of a breakthrough year. He has tiny hands, which can hinder you in throwing a breaking pitch, but his breaking ball is getting better, and the movement on the fastball is excellent. Command was a problem earlier in his career, but he's learning to hit his spots."

**4 Steve Avery, Atlanta Braves.** Avery is only 25, so he's not about to fade anytime soon, but he must cut down his pitch total to reach his potential. The Braves were 41-13 in his last 54 starts through 1994.

Scout: "He can throw his fastball by hitters, and his curveball and change-up are good, but he hasn't made the mental step up that the other guys on the Braves staff have. He doesn't throw as hard as he did when he first came up, but he's still got enough velocity."

**5 Mark Langston, California Angels.** Langston has led AL pitchers in strikeouts on three occasions, yet he's still awaiting a 20-win season. His punchout totals have gone down the last couple of years, but so have his walks.

Scout: "Not many lefthanders have better stuff than Langston. He's a joy for a scout to watch. He has such a live arm. When he's on he has an exploding fastball, great breaking pitches, and command. He's one of the few lefties who can overpower a hitter. Plus, he's a great athlete. He makes playing the game seem effortless."

NEXT: Jeff Fassero, Montreal Expos. RISING: Hent Mercker, Atlanta Braves.  
FALLING: Sid Fernandez, Baltimore Orioles.





FIFTY YEARS OF  
**50**

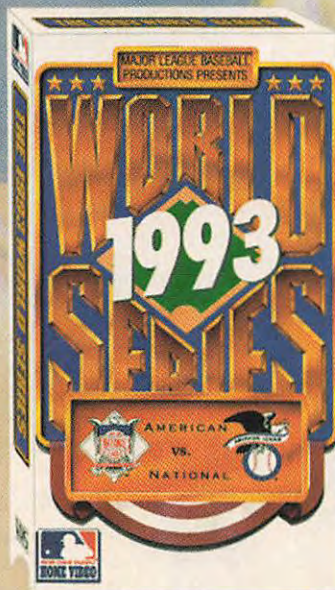


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# WORLD SERIES HIGHLIGHTS

ON VIDEO



1993 WORLD SERIES (#232) 60 minutes Toronto vs Philadelphia

**1943 WORLD SERIES**  
(#218) 24 minutes  
New York vs St. Louis

**1944 WORLD SERIES**  
(#219) 25 minutes  
St. Louis vs St. Louis

**1945 WORLD SERIES**  
(#220) 28 minutes  
Detroit vs Chicago

**1946 WORLD SERIES**  
(#221) 32 minutes  
St. Louis vs Boston

**1947 WORLD SERIES**  
(#222) 38 minutes  
New York vs Brooklyn

**1948 WORLD SERIES**  
(#223) 40 minutes  
Cleveland vs Boston

**1949 WORLD SERIES**  
(#224) 38 minutes  
New York vs Brooklyn

**1950 WORLD SERIES**  
(#225) 33 minutes  
New York vs Philadelphia

**1951 WORLD SERIES**  
(#226) 38 minutes  
New York vs New York

**1952 WORLD SERIES**  
(#227) 32 minutes  
New York vs Brooklyn

**1953 WORLD SERIES**  
(#228) 37 minutes  
New York vs Brooklyn

**1954 WORLD SERIES**  
(#128) 40 minutes  
New York vs Cleveland

**1955 WORLD SERIES**  
(#127) 44 minutes  
Brooklyn vs New York

**1956 WORLD SERIES**  
(#126) 45 minutes  
New York vs Brooklyn

**1957 WORLD SERIES**  
(#176) 47 minutes  
Milwaukee vs New York

**1958 WORLD SERIES**  
(#177) 40 minutes  
New York vs Milwaukee

**1959 WORLD SERIES**  
(#178) 39 minutes  
Los Angeles vs Chicago

**1960 WORLD SERIES**  
(#125) 47 minutes  
Pittsburgh vs New York

**1961 WORLD SERIES**  
(#179) 37 minutes  
New York vs Cincinnati

**1962 WORLD SERIES**  
(#180) 39 minutes  
New York vs San Francisco

**1963 WORLD SERIES**  
(#181) 43 minutes  
Los Angeles vs New York

**1964 WORLD SERIES**  
(#174) 45 minutes  
St. Louis vs New York

**1965 WORLD SERIES**  
(#182) 37 minutes  
Los Angeles vs Minnesota

**1966 WORLD SERIES**  
(#183) 44 minutes  
Baltimore vs Los Angeles

**1967 WORLD SERIES**  
(#124) 44 minutes  
St. Louis vs Boston

**1968 WORLD SERIES**  
(#123) 46 minutes  
Detroit vs St. Louis

**1969 WORLD SERIES**  
(#122) 45 minutes  
New York vs Baltimore

**1970 WORLD SERIES**  
(#184) 40 minutes  
Baltimore vs Cincinnati

**1971 WORLD SERIES**  
(#185) 37 minutes  
Pittsburgh vs Baltimore

**1972 WORLD SERIES**  
(#121) 44 minutes  
Oakland vs Cincinnati

**1973 WORLD SERIES**  
(#186) 43 minutes  
Oakland vs New York

**1974 WORLD SERIES**  
(#187) 31 minutes  
Oakland vs Los Angeles

**1975 WORLD SERIES**  
(#120) 38 minutes  
Cincinnati vs Boston

**1976 WORLD SERIES**  
(#188) 30 minutes  
Cincinnati vs New York

**1977 WORLD SERIES**  
(#119) 34 minutes  
New York vs Los Angeles

**1978 WORLD SERIES**  
(#118) 35 minutes  
New York vs Los Angeles

**1979 WORLD SERIES**  
(#189) 36 minutes  
Pittsburgh vs Baltimore

**1980 WORLD SERIES**  
(#117) 39 minutes  
Philadelphia vs Kansas City

**1981 WORLD SERIES**  
(#116) 40 minutes  
Los Angeles vs New York

**1982 WORLD SERIES**  
(#175) 42 minutes  
St. Louis vs Milwaukee

**1983 WORLD SERIES**  
(#190) 37 minutes  
Baltimore vs Philadelphia

**1984 WORLD SERIES**  
(#191) 39 minutes  
Detroit vs San Diego

**1985 WORLD SERIES**  
(#192) 38 minutes  
Kansas City vs St. Louis

**1986 WORLD SERIES**  
(#115) 34 minutes  
New York vs Boston

**1987 WORLD SERIES**  
(#114) 55 minutes  
Minnesota vs St. Louis

**1988 WORLD SERIES**  
(#113) 60 minutes  
Los Angeles vs Oakland

**1989 WORLD SERIES**  
(#112) 60 minutes  
Oakland vs San Francisco

**1990 WORLD SERIES**  
(#111) 60 minutes  
Cincinnati vs Oakland

**1991 WORLD SERIES**  
(#161) 80 minutes  
Minnesota vs Atlanta

**1992 WORLD SERIES**  
(#193) 60 minutes  
Toronto vs Atlanta

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				TOTAL AMOUNT \$	



**1** Greg Maddux, Atlanta Braves. Cy Young should have been so dominant. Maddux's 1.56 ERA last season was the third-best mark in the majors since 1919. He's won three consecutive Cy Young awards.

Scout: "He can't throw a ball straight—he has tremendous action on all his pitches, and he changes speeds off everything he throws. That and pinpoint control make it look easy. Maddux pitches inside to lefties and righties both. A great athlete who fields his position very well."

**2** Kevin Appier, Kansas City Royals. The Royals traded David Cone during spring training to trim their payroll, yet they still had an ace: Appier. Entering June, he was the majors' most dominant starter.

Scout: "With that motion of his, you keep waiting for a major arm injury, but so far he's stayed healthy. Maybe his body has made the adjustments to all that motion. That slider can be devastat-

him average more than seven innings per start.

Scout: "Cone has dominating stuff, and he's a fearless competitor. He takes the hard way much of the time with the strikeouts, but last year he began to accept merely getting outs, which will take some of the strain off his arm and could extend his career."

**5** Jose Rijo, Cincinnati Reds. He was on track for his fifth consecutive season of at least 14 victories in 1994 until the strike hit. His 3.08 ERA in '94 was the highest of his seven-year career in Cincy.

Scout: "Pure power. He throws a fastball and slider, and both for strikes. Nobody has a slider that's close to this guy's: hard, at the knees, and on the corner. Rijo's a workhorse, and he wants the ball in the big game. He can beat anybody, anytime."

**6** Dennis Martinez, Cleveland Indians. At 40, Martinez shows no signs of slowing down. He's seeking his ninth consecutive season of at least 10 wins, and his 15th overall.

Scout: "He looked like he was done five years ago but turned it around and has become the big-game pitcher a staff must have to win. The better his team, the better he pitches, because with a good club he relaxes instead of trying to do too much. He's not going to blow hitters away anymore, but his control is well above average, and he uses it to set up hitters."

**7** Pedro Martinez, Montreal Expos. From Dennis Martinez to Ken Hill to Pedro Martinez—the Expos lose one ace and bring in another. Despite his slight build (5'11", 170), Pedro is a power pitcher who averages more than a strikeout per inning. He retired 27 straight batters in a game earlier this season but lost the perfect game in the 10th.

Scout: "This guy loves to pitch inside. He can overpower hitters with his moving fastball. He has an average change-up, but that's good enough because of the heat and the hard curveball he throws. When a right-handed hitter is up there worried about him head-hunting and Martinez breaks off the big bender, it's lights out."

**8** Mike Mussina, Baltimore Orioles. He entered 1995 with the best winning percentage among active pitchers, and the second-best all-time among pitchers with at least 50 starts. Talk about consistency: In his first four big-league seasons Mussina lost back-to-back decisions only four times.

Scout: "A great curveball, and excellent location with his fastball. Mussina knows how to change speeds with his curve, and he's just starting to establish the confidence he needs to get even better. He has Greg Maddux-type control; eventually he'll walk only the guys he wants to."

**9** Ken Hill, St. Louis Cardinals. Thrust into the No. 1 starter role with the Montreal Expos last season, Hill responded by winning 16 games to share the league lead with Greg Maddux. He was runner-up to Maddux in the NL Cy Young voting.

Scout: "Fastball, slider, change-up—all good pitches. He's a short-armed, which gives him deception and makes it hard for the hitter to pick the ball up. He battles hitters, and he's learned how to win."

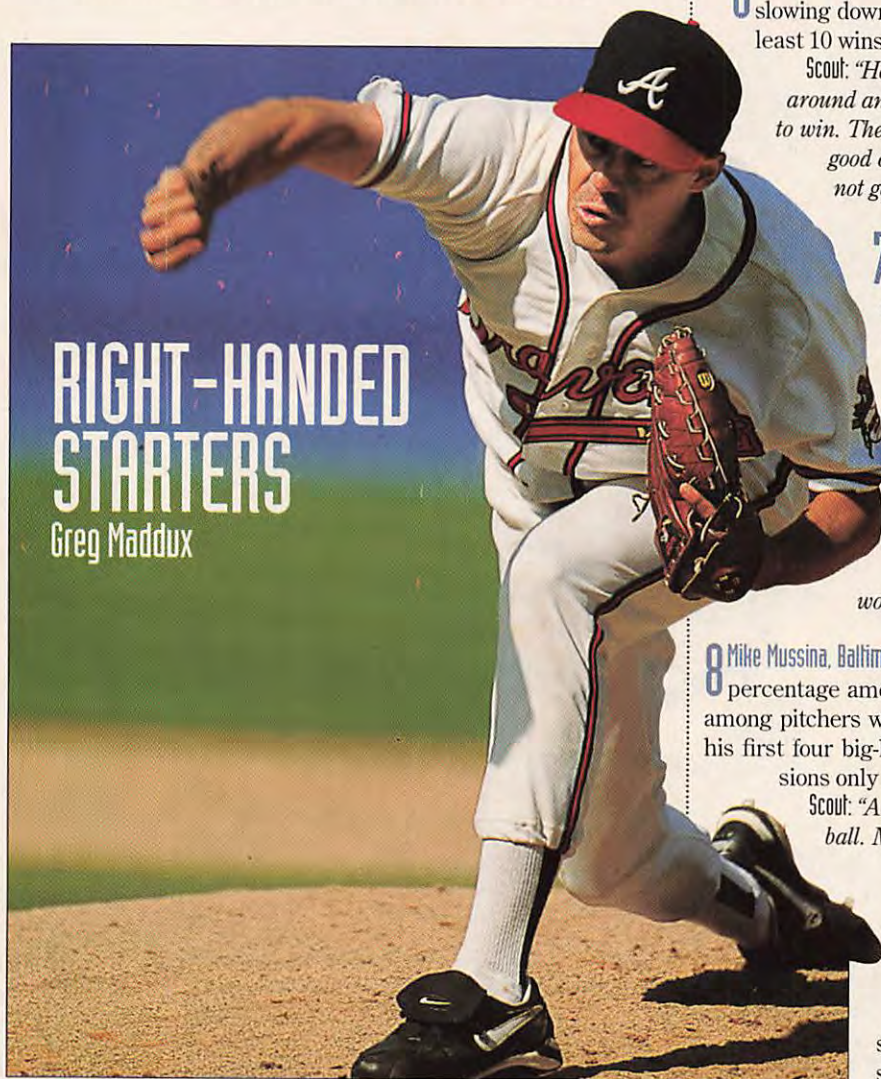
**10** John Smoltz, Atlanta Braves. His career has been marked by inconsistency, but Smoltz finally seems to have found himself. He's winning regularly and dominating hitters this season.

Scout: "This guy has more pure stuff than anybody else on the Atlanta staff. There aren't many fastballs that can match his hard sinking pitch, and he has a slider that has the unusual downward break along with horizontal movement. He could use a better off-speed pitch."

NEXT: Kevin Brown, Baltimore Orioles. RISING: Jason Bere, Chicago White Sox.  
FALLING: Juan Guzman, Toronto Blue Jays.

## RIGHT-HANDED STARTERS

Greg Maddux



FOCUS ON SPORTS

ing—I just wonder why he doesn't throw it more often to left-handed hitters. It would be unhittable."

**3** Jack McDowell, New York Yankees. The numbers won't overwhelm you—he's never had a sub-3.00 ERA in a full big-league season—but the bottom line is winning, and he's as consistent as they come.

Scout: "The Jack Morris of the '90s. McDowell has great stuff, and he does what it takes to win. He's become consistent with his command. He probably was at the best he's ever been when the strike came. Most of all, he has that winner's makeup. He doesn't care if the score is 1-0 or 6-4. He just cares that he has the 'W' when the game is over."

**4** David Cone, Toronto Blue Jays. Cone made the transition from a thrower to a pitcher and won the AL Cy Young last year. He discovered that a one-pitch out counts the same as a strikeout, which helped



**1 Steve Howe, New York Yankees.** It's hard to count on Howe, the 1980 National League rookie of the year, because you never know when he might disappear (seven suspensions for substance abuse during his career). However, he can hold or protect a lead, and he has missed enough time that his arm isn't as abused as those of most 37-year-olds.

Scout: "He still has an above-average fastball, and he has tried to do some things with his breaking pitches to set up the fastball more.

That's something he had to do, because without the breaking ball he has become hittable."

**2 Mike Stanton, Atlanta Braves.** Stanton began the 1993 season as the Braves' closer and had 27 saves by the end of July. However, an early-August slump cost him that job, and it took him awhile to adjust when he returned to setup duties in 1994.

Scout: "Good stuff and a good breaking ball. He can throw a couple goose eggs up on the board in a hurry and can close out a game if he has to."

**3 Todd Jones, Houston Astros.** An eventual closer, he made the conversion from starter to reliever in Double-A in 1992 and earned 25 saves that year. He has shown marked improvement with his command since joining the Astros in mid-1993.

Scout: "He has the outstanding fastball and good movement. He challenges hitters—for an inning or two he can throw the ball by them.

And he's durable, which is important in the setup role."

**4 Darren Holmes, Colorado Rockies.** Holmes was slowed by elbow problems last year and lost the Rockies closer role to Bruce Ruffin.

He seems to perform best when he's not under 9th-inning pressure.

Scout: "The pitches are there for him to be a closer. His fastball is a tad above average, and that curveball of his freezes hitters, even lefties. He seems to get himself in trouble,

## SETUP RELIEVERS

Steve Howe

though, when he has a bad outing or two and starts looking for something wrong to explain it."

**5 Bill Risley, Seattle Mariners.** He bounced through the Cincinnati and Montreal organizations before finding a home in the Seattle bullpen last season.

Scout: "If Risley has command, he has the pitches to eventually be a closer. The fastball is simply dominating, and he can cut it. And he has a slider and curve that are solid average. The main thing for this guy is throwing strikes. He had trouble doing that everywhere he had pitched before he showed up in Seattle."

NEXT: Eric Plunk, Cleveland Indians. RISING: Omar Daal, Los Angeles Dodgers. FALLING: Xavier Hernandez, Cincinnati Reds.

**1 John Wetteland, New York Yankees.** The Dodgers gave up on him, and the Reds didn't even look at him before passing him on to the Expos. Finally given a chance, Wetteland earned 105 saves in three seasons in Montreal. Then the Expos no longer could afford him.

Scout: "He's developed into the best. He has two quality pitches in his fastball and curveball, and last year he started to cut the fastball. He comes into the game and goes right at you. He has such command with that fastball that he can pick a spot and hit it. He's not afraid; he loves game situations."

**2 Rick Aguilera, Minnesota Twins.**

Since recovering from a sore right biceps that sidelined him in May of '94, Aguilera has been as dominant as any closer. The Twins aren't going anywhere, though, so expect them to trade Aguilera to a contender.

Scout: "Aguilera has that one devastating pitch: a great split-

## CLOSERS

John Wetteland

finger. He comes at you in a number of different ways—he'll sink the fastball and throw you a slider—but just when you think

you've got him figured out he drops that split on you, and you're done."

**3 Rod Beck, San Francisco Giants.** He washed out as a starting pitcher in Oakland's system but blossomed as a reliever across the Bay. Beck's record streak of 41 consecutive successful save opportunities was snapped earlier this season.

Scout: "The fastball is above average, and the breaking ball is decent, but Beck's strikeout pitch is that split-finger. The bottom just falls out.

He comes out ready to challenge a hitter and throw strikes."

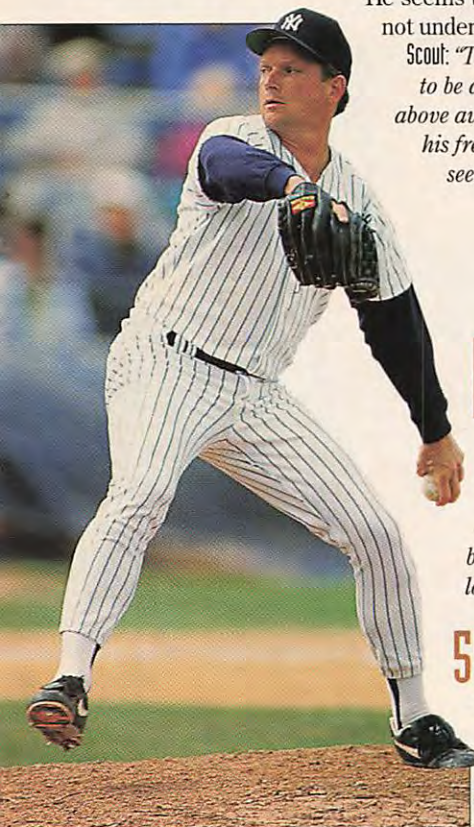
**4 Randy Myers, Chicago Cubs.** His personality can rub teams the wrong way—the Cubs are his fourth big-league club—but there is no denying Myers' effectiveness. He set the NL record for saves with 53 in 1993.

Scout: "Myers has that good fastball and slider. He can paint the outside corner against the right-handed hitters; if they try to pull him, they're dead. He can get that little extra when the situation calls for it."

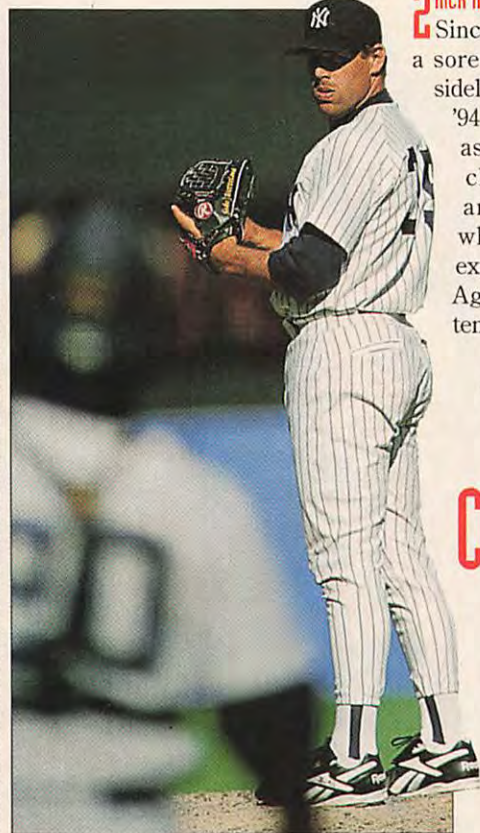
**5 Mel Rojas, Montreal Expos.** Overshadowed by John Wetteland the past two seasons, he's now on center stage. Rojas converted 16 of 18 save opportunities last year while Wetteland was injured.

Scout: "He was a closer in hiding, setting up for Wetteland the last two years. A tremendous fastball and split-finger; he can just overpower you with the fastball. He gets both left-handed and right-handed hitters out."

NEXT: John Franco, New York Mets. RISING: Heathcliffe Slocumb, Philadelphia Phillies. FALLING: Dennis Echerstey, Oakland Athletics. ■



TOM DEPACE



JOHN KLEIN



# The Seminoles, to the Max



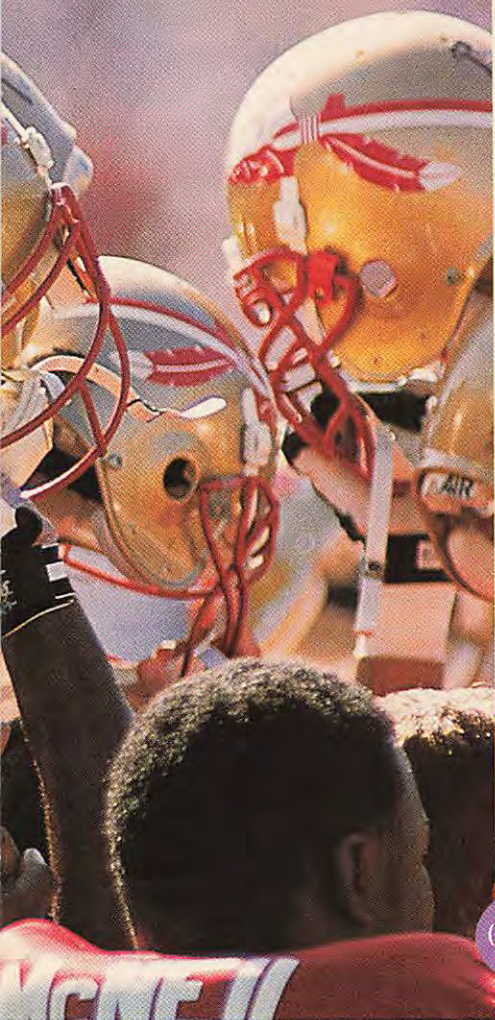
## 1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

### INSIDE SPORTS' PRESEASON TOP 25

- |                  |               |                  |                    |                   |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Florida State | 6. Penn State | 11. Notre Dame   | 16. UCLA           | 21. West Virginia |
| 2. Nebraska      | 7. Tennessee  | 12. Oklahoma     | 17. Colorado       | 22. Texas         |
| 3. Florida       | 8. Alabama    | 13. Auburn       | 18. Boston College | 23. Brigham Young |
| 4. Texas A&M     | 9. Michigan   | 14. Southern Cal | 19. Virginia       | 24. Fresno State  |
| 5. Washington    | 10. Miami     | 15. Ohio State   | 20. Oregon         | 25. Wisconsin     |



***Our college football computer, Mad Max, says Florida State—as usual—is the team to beat this season. Here's our look at the top 25 teams and the major conferences***  
**By ALLEN BARRA**



**T**HE GREAT BRITISH HISTORIAN Edward Gibbon once wrote, "To predict the future, we must study the past." No, wait—maybe it was Voltaire, and what he actually said was, "To know the past is to know the present." Oh, to hell with it. Let's stick to our own computer, Mad Max, who says, "The only way to get a line on what's going to happen in college football this year is to look at the wave over the past five seasons."

What Max means is that the next national champion won't come out of left field—or out of the Ivy League. The programs that go into New Year's Day with the best shot at No. 1 almost certainly are going to be familiar even to casual fans. The contenders will be drawn from the same handful of powers that has dominated college football over the past couple of decades.

The college game is a more rigid hierarchy than ever, and outsiders aren't welcome into the inner fraternity. Over the past quarter-century the same two dozen schools—with but rare exceptions—have battled one another for the right to get a shot at the top spot. That's unlikely to change this year. In fact, Max calculates the odds at about 5,000-to-1 that a team that hasn't been in his 1990s composite top 25 will win the national championship this season.

For those of you who haven't encountered Mad Max in previous years in *INSIDE SPORTS*, here's how the system works. Max calculates a neutral-field power rating based on a team's performance and taking into account the power of each opponent

and the opponent of each opponent. After a few weeks of a season, Max can find linkages between virtually any two teams in Division I-A. Here's Mad Max's composite top 25 from 1990 through 1994:

Team	1990-94 W-L-T	Power Rating
1. Florida State	.54-7-1	137.5
2. Florida	.49-12-1	134.1
3. Miami	.52-8-0	132.1
4. Michigan	.44-13-3	132.0
5. Washington	.45-13-0	131.9
6. Nebraska	.51-9-1	131.7
7. Penn State	.49-12-0	131.5
8. Alabama	.52-10-1	130.7
9. Tennessee	.44-14-3	127.6
10. Notre Dame	.46-13-2	127.5
11. Texas A&M	.51-8-2	126.4
12. Colorado	.47-10-4	125.4
13. Southern Cal	.32-23-3	123.6
14. Ohio State	.42-16-2	123.5
15. Virginia	.39-19-1	123.1
16. Oklahoma	.37-19-2	122.4
17. Georgia	.34-22-1	121.1
18. California	.34-24-1	120.9
19. Auburn	.38-15-3	119.9
20. Arizona	.35-23-1	119.7
21. Texas	.34-22-1	118.5
22. Boston College	.32-24-2	118.2
23. Washington State	.29-28-0	118.0
24. Iowa	.34-23-2	117.9
25. Brigham Young	.42-19-2	117.5

The 1-2-3 finish of Florida's holy trinity should surprise no one. Every year in the '90s, the road to No. 1 has passed through swamp country. In truth, Max has bent the rules a bit to put Florida ahead of Miami, but he has a habit of weighting his power ratings slightly in favor of teams that finish a season strongly. Max figures that an early-season loss shouldn't carry quite as heavy a statistical penalty as one that comes near the end, because the best teams get better as the season progresses.

Max takes a similar approach when he ranks a team over a period of years: He placed Florida ninth in the country in 1990, sixth in 1991, and 15th in 1992, but he jumped the Gators to third in '93 and '94. Max feels they have been getting better as the decade progresses. Conversely, Miami has been slipping steadily—from No. 1 in 1990 to No. 3 in 1991, No. 5 in 1992, and No. 17 in '93. The Hurricanes made it to No. 8 last year, but though their overall rating from '90 to '94 is slightly higher than Florida's, Max believes the Gators are on the rise, while the once-dominant Canes are struggling to hold on to their top-10 status.

Taking Max's five-year evaluation as a basis, the projected top five candidates for the 1995 national championship heading into the bowl games will be: (1) Florida

**T**his is starting to get too predictable. Since joining the Atlantic Coast Conference in 1992, **Florida State** hasn't lost

## ACC

**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Florida State. (2) Virginia. (3) North Carolina. (4) North Carolina State. (5) Clemson. (6) Duke. (7) Maryland. (8) Wake Forest. (9) Georgia Tech.

a conference game. Will anything change in 1995? It's doubtful. Coach Bobby Bowden's team will dish out more punishment, with 14 starters back from a 1994 team that went 9-1-1 and then defeated Florida 23-17 in the Sugar Bowl. Leading the charge on offense are two Heisman Trophy candidates, senior quarterback Danny Kanell and junior tailback Warrick Dunn. Florida State's defense lost some studs but returns five starters and plenty of new talent.

**Virginia**, which should have one of the best defenses in the country, is the only team in the ACC capable of challenging the Seminoles. Last year the Cavaliers led the nation in rushing defense and also had an NCAA-best 27 interceptions. Three starters return in the secondary: cornerbacks Ronde Barber and Joe Crocker, and safety Percy Ellsworth. Quarterback Mike Groh is slated to guide an offense that benefits from an experienced and deep line. Bowden keeps warning his team that **North Carolina** is just "two or three players" away from breaking into college football's elite. The Tar Heels have a few stars, including Leon Johnson, who rushed for 805 yards in '94.—*Godwin Kelly*

AL MESSERSCHMIDT



State, (2) Nebraska, (3) Florida, (4) Texas A&M, and (5) Washington. **Florida State** has the strongest preseason case for the No. 1 spot. The Seminoles have been the best college team over the past five years, they haven't finished lower than fourth in the polls since 1986, and they haven't lost in their last 13 bowl games. In addition, 12 of 22 starters return from last year's 9-1-1 squad. Quarterback Danny Kanell was good as a junior (he threw 17 touchdown passes), and he should be great as a senior. Junior tailback Warrick Dunn is one of the five or six best backs in the country, and he'll be running behind one of the nation's top two or three lines.

If **Nebraska** isn't as explosive as Florida State, it's nearly as consistent: The Cornhuskers have fielded Max's No. 19, 8, 3, 5, and 2 teams, respectively, over the past five seasons. Like the Seminoles, they return a star quarterback (Tommie Frazier) and running back (Lawrence Phillips), so it's hard to see how they'll lose more than one game during the regular season. There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the bowls, but it looks like a good bet



**Davis needs a passer to stir the Hurricanes' air attack.**

**A** new coach for **Miami**—Butch Davis takes the helm for the Hurricanes—but the same old story for the Big East. Davis inherits plenty of talent on a team that has lost just one conference game in the

## BIG EAST

**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Miami. (2) Boston College. (3) West Virginia. (4) Virginia Tech. (5) Syracuse. (6) Rutgers. (7) Pittsburgh. (8) Temple.

past four seasons. Defense should be the Canes' strength, with ends Kenard Lang and Kenny Holmes, linebacker Ray Lewis, and cornerback Carlos Jones. The question is: Can Miami compete for the national title with either senior Ryan Collins, sophomore Ryan Clement, or freshman Scott Covington at quarterback?

As many as four teams will compete for second place. With 13 starters returning, **Boston College** has the edge. The big names on the Eagles are quarterback Mark Hartsell and wide receivers Kenyatta Watson and Greg Grice. **West Virginia** has 17 players with starting experience from a '94 team that earned an improbable berth in the Carquest Bowl. **Virginia Tech** and **Syracuse** each have an All-America-caliber receiver—Bryan Still and Marvin Harrison, respectively—but the lack of a big-time quarterback could drop the two teams to the middle of the pack.

—Thomas O'Toole

TOM DIPACE

# 1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

**T**alk about a tough act to follow: Last season the Big Eight furnished not only the national champion, Nebraska, but the Heisman Trophy winner, Colorado running back Rashaan Salaam, as well. As the conference prepares for its final season before adding Texas A&M, Texas, Texas Tech, and Baylor to its ranks, **Nebraska** is poised to claim its fifth consecutive title. Quarterback Tommie Frazier and running back Lawrence Phillips will operate behind a

**Phillips [below] and Frazier carry the Cornhuskers' hopes for a repeat.**



line that should be competent despite some heavy losses. A young defense will be hard-pressed to match last year's No. 4 national ranking.

**Oklahoma** turns to a new coach, Howard Schnellenberger, who plans to diversify the land-locked offense that has grounded the Sooners in recent years. Schnellenberger inherits players—nine regulars on offense and 10 on defense—who showed signs of bril-

## BIG EIGHT

**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Nebraska. (2) Oklahoma. (3) Colorado. (4) Kansas State. (5) Kansas. (6) Missouri. (7) Oklahoma State. (8) Iowa State.

liance last year before settling for a 6-6 finish. Garrick McGee will battle Eric Moore for the starting quarterback spot; if either player gets the job done, Oklahoma could be dangerous. This will be a growing year for **Colorado**. Among the players trying to keep the Buffaloes running for first-year coach Rick Neuheisel are quarterback Koy Detmer, running back Lendon Henry, and receiver Rae Carruth. Seven defensive starters return.

—Kevin Haskin

that it'll be Florida State and Nebraska in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day for all the marbles. Max's pick? Nebraska's recent bowl is impressive, but Florida State hasn't lost in the postseason since Ronald Reagan's first term in office. The Seminoles get an extra point for home-field advantage.

**Florida** will have much to say about the national championship—its regular-season match with the Seminoles may well be the title game everyone's been clamoring for. Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel should be a top Heisman Trophy candidate, and coach Steve Spurrier's game plan will give him the chance to build his case. However, under Spurrier, Florida has yet to prove what the Cornhuskers and Seminoles have over the previous two seasons: that it can win the big game.

Why **Texas A&M** and **Washington** in the top five? Simple: A&M has excellent talent—Heisman candidate Leeland McElroy at running back and Ray Mickens at cornerback head the highlight film—and a light schedule. Even if the Aggies lose at Colorado on September 23, they're likely to be no worse than 10-1 on New Year's Day. Picking Washington to finish fifth is a gamble, but the Huskies earned Max's No. 2, 1, and 7 rankings, respectively, in '90, '91, and '92 before finishing 15th in '93 and 28th in '94. Enough time has passed for the effects of the NCAA sanctions against Washington to

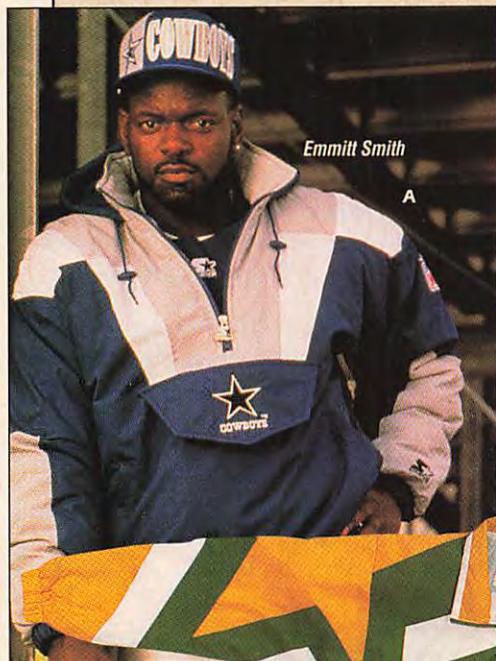
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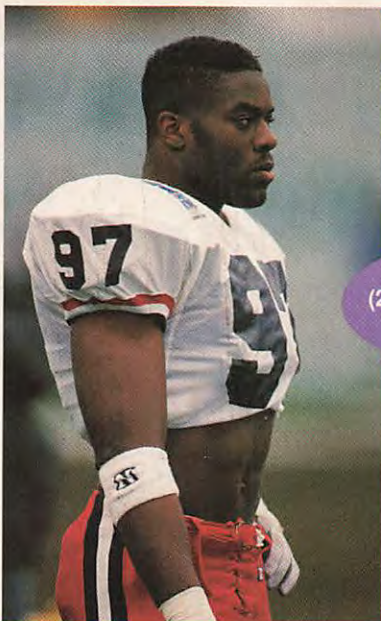


wear off. The Huskies boast wideout speed, an experienced defense with a gifted secondary, and a terrific crop of recruits. And this year they'll have extra incentive: bowl eligibility.

Max's next four candidates are: (6) Penn State, (7) Tennessee, (8) Alabama, and (9) Michigan. Here's how Max has ranked them the past five seasons:

	1990	'91	'92	'93	'94
Michigan	.....8	2	4	8	11
Penn State	.....17	4	12	13	1
Alabama	.....23	10	2	18	9
Tennessee	.....16	13	14	2	17

Where **Michigan** and **Penn State** finish depends very much on how they play against each other; ditto Alabama and Tennessee. Michigan lost quarterback Todd Collins and running back Tyrone Wheatley, and Penn State lost Kerry Collins and Ki-Jana Carter at the same positions, so it would seem to be a wash. However, Penn State returns seven starters on offense, including four from a jackhammer line and an All-America candidate in wide receiver Bobby Engram. In contrast, Michigan has a new coach and no experienced passer.



**Despite Rice's defense, Illinois' Big Ten picture is grainy.**

linebacker Jarrett Irons and defensive back Chuck Winters. **Wisconsin** also needs help from some new faces. All those players you've associated with the Badgers' bowl wins the past two years are gone, but Wisconsin's recruiting classes the past few years have been stellar. **Illinois** has linebacker Simeon Rice, the premier pass-rusher in the nation, but he can't win games by himself.—David Campbell

The Big Ten just can't catch a break. The conference, which hasn't had a national champion since Ohio State in 1968, added Penn State in 1993 to improve its outlook. Last year the Nittany Lions ran unbeaten through the regular season and destroyed Oregon 38-20 in the Rose Bowl—and

## BIG TEN

**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Penn State. (2) Michigan. (3) Wisconsin. (4) Ohio State. (5) Illinois. (6) Michigan State. (7) Indiana. (8) Iowa. (9) Northwestern. (10) Minnesota. (11) Purdue.

still came up short of a national title. Maybe this will be the year. **Penn State** returns seven starters from an offense that led the nation with 520 yards and 47.8 points per game in '94. Keep an eye on quarterback Wally Richardson.

**Michigan** is the wild card. After Gary Moeller's resignation in May, Lloyd Carr stepped in as coach. Among the candidates vying to succeed Todd Collins at quarterback are Jason Carr and Scott Dreisbach. The Wolverines are set on defense, with

## 1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

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This could be the year **Tennessee** finally beats **Alabama**. Tennessee quarterback Peyton Manning, the 1994 Southeastern Conference freshman of the year, is an experienced sophomore, and the Vols have a new defensive coordinator and a more aggressive defensive philosophy. Alabama must replace not only All-SEC running back Sherman Williams but quarterback Jay Barker, who led the Crimson Tide to second-half comebacks in five games last season. However, Bama has a weak schedule, seven home games, and a fine recruiting class, so more than two losses is unlikely.

It may seem strange that **Miami** just sneaks in as a projected No. 10 team, but the Hurricanes have lost a lot of prestige in recent years, not to mention a few bowl games. Passing is what made Miami great, and this year's team has no experienced thrower to greet new coach Butch Davis. Nevertheless, Miami remains one of the most talented teams in the country, so a huge drop is unlikely.

Here's how 11 through 25 stack up:

**11. Notre Dame.** Don't blink at seeing the Irish out of Max's top 10; they've missed the cut three times in the past five years. This season Notre Dame may have done its best recruiting job in a decade—and the team will need it. Sophomore quar-

terback Ron Powlus is talented, but Lou Holtz's 1920s offensive philosophy holds him back. New linebacker Kory Minor will be a major contributor, and receiver Derrick Mayes already is—but beware, Irish fans: Under Holtz, Notre Dame no longer wins the big ones at home.

**12. Oklahoma.** Is it really much of a stretch to believe the Sooners can crash the top 15? Oklahoma was better than last year's 6-6 record, and Howard Schnellenberger, one of the great coaches of modern college football, has moved to Norman. What's more, 17 starters return. Don't assume Schnellenberger won't have some surprises for Nebraska.

**13. Auburn.** The Tigers should do well now that they're off probation. Terry Bowden may be the best coach in the SEC, and he has quarterback Pat Nix and the entire offensive line back. Most of the defense is new, though.

**14. Southern Cal.** The Trojans have been better than their record for the past two years—they ranked 11th in '93 and ninth in '94 on Max's chart—and this season they may catch a break against Notre Dame. Keyshawn Johnson could be one of the two or three best receivers in the country.

**15. Ohio State.** Quarterback Bobby Hoying (19 touchdown passes in '94)

and the Buckeyes may be just a game or two from moving into the Big Ten's first rank. Those games are against Michigan and Penn State; the Buckeyes have a decent shot at beating Michigan, and if they do, a 10-2 season is a strong possibility.

**16. UCLA.** The Bruins return 17 starters from a team that won its last three games. Receiver Kevin Jordan doesn't suffer in comparison with departed star J.J. Stokes.

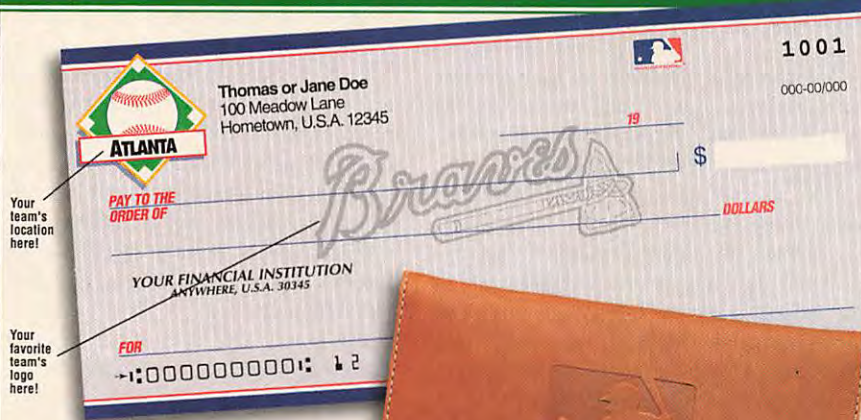
**17. Colorado.** High recruiting standards could make up for the loss of 10 starters. Quarterback Koy Detmer can be a superb passer.

**18. Boston College.** Don't make too much of BC's win over Notre Dame last year; even Brigham Young beat that Irish squad. The Eagles have a fine quarterback in Mark Hartsell, and their secondary is deep, but they have to play Ohio State, Virginia Tech, Michigan, and Michigan State—then Notre Dame. Think 8-3 if they're lucky, 6-5 if they're not.

**19. Virginia.** The Cavaliers have 17 starters, two fine runners (Kevin Brooks and Tiki Barber), and the nucleus of a defense that led the NCAA in pass interceptions (27) in 1994. A repeat of last year's 8-3 is likely.

**20. Oregon.** Most of the "Gang Green" defense is back, so there should be

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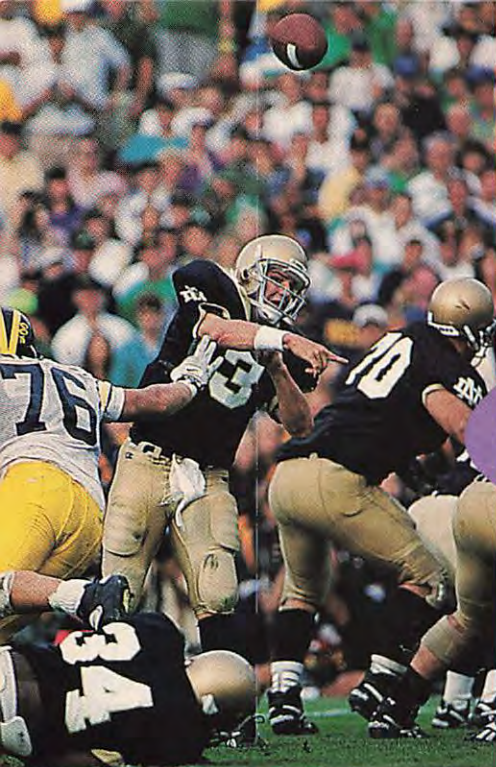


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**Powlus has the arm, but Holtz's antiquated offense doesn't use it.**

ers, and should do just as well in 1995. East Carolina's best player might be cornerback Dwight Henry, who excels in man coverage. **Southern Mississippi** appears to be on the rise, while **Memphis** hopes to rebound after losing three of its last four games in 1994.

—Barry Wilner

STEVE WOLTMANN

Last season **Notre Dame** landed in a major bowl game on reputation alone; in 1995, perhaps talent will get the Irish there. Despite his strange mood swings and sideline antics, coach Lou Holtz attracts topnotch players to South Bend. A superb recruiting class joins a roster featuring quarterback Ron Powlus, who will have a hard time ever living up to his advance notices,

## INDEPENDENTS

**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Notre Dame. (2) East Carolina. (3) Southern Mississippi. (4) Memphis. (5) Cincinnati. (6) Northeast Louisiana. (7) Tulsa. (8) Army. (9) North Texas. (10) Navy. (11) Tulane. (12) Louisville.

and receiver Derrick Mayes. However, the Irish lost key players from a defense that ranked just 32nd in the nation last year—hardly the stuff of national championships.

For once, the Irish were not the class of the handful of independents remaining in Division I-A football in 1994. That honor belonged to **East Carolina**, which went 7-4 to earn a berth in the Liberty Bowl. The Pirates welcome back 18 starters, including most of their skill-position players,

gets around to taking action—is to punish thousands of students and athletes by barring their school's team from TV and from postseason competition. Of course, students and athletes are easier to punish than coaches and administrators; the former group has no rights.

A few years ago a writer for a national publication suggested that a return to one-platoon football would cut the average school's athletic budget by nearly 25%, and that the NCAA's then-current limit of 95 scholarships per year—now 85—could be reduced to 60 without a great drop in the quality of play. Why not go a step further? Why not save everyone a lot of money and eliminate athletic scholarships entirely?

Most of today's major college athletes in football and basketball are professionals in every significant respect except one: They don't get paid. They are in school to make money for the colleges, and that money is a fact of life that can't be done away with so long as millions of alumni and fans continue to pony up for tickets and to watch the games on television. Can anything be done short of turning 18-year-olds into legitimate professionals by paying them outright?

Yes. Colleges can quit being a free minor league system for the NFL (and the NBA, as well). The elimination of athletic scholarships would mean football players might

## 1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

more W's than L's. Finding a replacement for quarterback Danny O'Neil is essential.

**21. West Virginia.** The Mountaineers just missed crashing Max's top 25 last season—they were No. 26—and they finished well after a horrendous 1-4 start. Chad Johnston may be the best quarterback in the Big East.

**22. Texas.** The Longhorns had a fine offense last year (they scored 331 points) and finished on an up note by beating North Carolina in the Sun Bowl. An improved defense could make them 8-3 or even 9-2.

**23. Brigham Young.** The Cougars defense improved over the last half of the '94 season, and six starters are back. As for a quarterback, BYU will find one. BYU always finds one.

**24. Fresno State.** The Bulldogs could be a big surprise after a dismal 1994 season. They've brought in a terrific recruiting class, and the impact of 20 experienced junior-college transfers could be profound.

**25. Wisconsin.** The Badgers don't get much respect, and the Big Ten is tougher than it used to be, but Barry Alvarez is a fine coach, and Wisconsin has a talented offensive line to protect Darrell

Bevell, the league's best passer in '93 before slipping last season. Their recruiting crop is superb; a 7-4 mark should be within reach.

*Now that we've Maxed out the top 25 for you, here's our take on a pressing issue concerning the college game: **Forget Scholarships—Let the Pros Pay***

"Of the making of reforms," Confucius said, "there is no end." With regard to college sports, he might have added "especially when the reforms are half-hearted." If the NCAA is serious about reforming college sports, one sweeping measure is simple, fair, and economically advantageous: do away with athletic scholarships.

Hardly a week goes by without news of some fresh scandal involving a big-time football program. A sampling of recent scandals presents us with allegations of steroid use at Notre Dame, an Auburn football player who taped conversations with his coaches as they made their payments, and Florida State players being taken on a shopping spree. These are just the incidents we find out about; does anyone doubt that a hidden camera would disclose scandal in just about every major college sports program?

The NCAA's usual response—when it

not be quite so prepared to step into the lineup of a professional team—but whose concern should that be?

Colleges would be forced to try something new: field teams made up of students, not future NFL draft picks. No longer would preferential treatment be given to "scholar-athletes." More players would graduate, because they'd be entering college as students, not as athletes.

With athletic scholarships gone, we'd find out if students at Miami play football better than students at Notre Dame. More to the point, we'd find out if, once their recruiting machines are gone, Miami and Notre Dame really are better than, say, Northwestern and Georgia Tech.

College coaches and NCAA administrators alike object to doing away with athletic scholarships, on the grounds that it would cut revenues. But why? Even if the TV networks paid less for the rights to a game played by non-scholarship athletes, the schools still would earn big bucks—certainly more than it would cost them to field the teams. Most big-time programs claim to be losing money as it is. From a financial standpoint, the overwhelming number of schools would have nothing to lose from scrapping the system as it now stands.



The second objection is stickier: The elimination of athletic scholarships would mean fewer minority—mostly black—athletes. Though this might be true for a while, it wouldn't necessarily mean fewer minority *students*. There may be little that can be done about the vast sums of money NCAA sports generate, but something can be done about how they're spent.

Most colleges put the bulk of their basketball and football money back into their sports programs. Eliminate athletic scholarships, and the money could go toward increasing the number of academic scholarships afforded minority students. In this case the minority students given aid would be ones with aptitudes for math, science, and literature instead of jump shots and sacks.

The millions brought in by college students at least would benefit college students. Instead of sending thousands of uneducated ex-jocks out to face a hostile society every year, colleges would have the chance to send thousands of better-prepared graduates into a society that needs them very much.

That said, we must acknowledge that no matter how good an idea it is, colleges aren't going to abolish athletic scholar-

**S**hocking everyone, perhaps even itself, Oregon won the Pacific-10 championship last season and earned its first Rose Bowl berth in 37 years. However, the Ducks' Pac-10 reign may be brief, as **Washington** is poised to rise to the top of the conference. The Huskies' season hinges on senior quarterback Damon Huard, who has been inconsistent the past two years.

## PAC-10

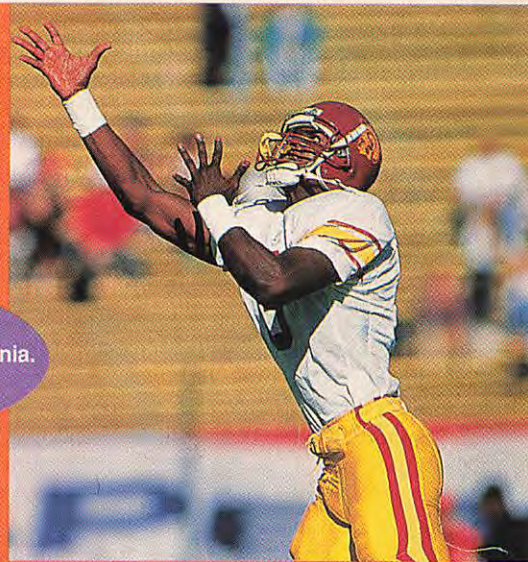
**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Washington. (2) Southern Cal. (3) UCLA. (4) Oregon. (5) California. (6) Arizona. (7) Arizona State. (8) Stanford. (9) Washington State. (10) Oregon State.

The best part of Washington's defense should be its secondary. Lawyer Milloy is coming off an all-conference season at safety, and cornerback Reggie Reser could emerge as a star.

**Southern California** also has title aspirations. Heisman Trophy candidate Keyshawn Johnson

returns at wide receiver after flirting with the idea of turning pro, and tailback Shawn Walters again will be the focus of the ground game. **UCLA** coach Terry Donahue has forgotten last season's disappointing 5-6 effort. He's too excited about what awaits him: 17 returning starters, including two of the most exciting players in the league, wide receiver Kevin Jordan and running back Sharmon Shah. The Bruins should be vastly improved on defense, where nine starters return, including Butkus Award candidate Donnie Edwards. As for **Oregon**, it must adjust to a new coach, Mike Bellotti, who has a tough act to follow. —*Bob Cohn*

**If Johnson plays up to expectations, a Heisman is within reach.**



OTTO GREULE/ALLSPORT

## 1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

**Y**ou can set your calendar by the Southeastern Conference schedule: When the first Saturday in December arrives, Florida and Alabama are squaring off for the conference title. Look for more of the same in 1995. The **Florida** Gators have their usual dynamic offense,

## SEC

**PREDICTED FINISH: EAST:** (1) Florida. (2) Tennessee. (3) South Carolina. (4) Georgia. (5) Vanderbilt. (6) Kentucky. **WEST:** (1) Alabama. (2) Auburn. (3) Mississippi State. (4) Louisiana State. (5) Arkansas. (6) Mississippi.

with quarterback Danny Wuerffel, tailbacks Fred Taylor and Elijah Williams, receivers Ike Hilliard and Reidel Anthony, and lineman Jason Odom. Despite some key defensive departures, linebacker Ben Hanks and back Anthone Lott should help fill the void. **Tennessee** has enough talent to give Florida a push in the Eastern Division. Quarterback Peyton Manning is only a sophomore, but he's a legitimate Heisman Trophy candidate. What's more, Manning is protected by one of the best offensive lines in the nation.

In the Western Division, **Alabama** has a slight edge over Auburn. To win the division, Bama must overcome significant losses on both sides of the ball. With Jay Barker gone, Brian Burgdorf or Freddie Kitchens will have big shoes to fill at quarterback. **Auburn** has one of the best running backs in the nation, Stephen Davis, but returns only five starters on defense. —*Mike Strange*



**Tennessee is ready to challenge Florida, and Manning is the man.**

ships—not unilaterally, at any rate—not in this lifetime, and probably not in the next. The reason has nothing to do with what's good for the players, or even what's good for the colleges. It has to do with what's good for athletic departments, which aren't about to surrender even a portion of their power and prestige without a lot of screaming. The move toward reform must come from outside university athletic departments. It must come from universities that are tired of being dogs wagged by the athletic department's tail.

When that starts to happen, it will signal the beginning of a major turnaround in how college athletics views itself, at least in relation to the professional leagues. Major league baseball teams pay much of the cost of their player development, but the NFL and the NBA have their players developed for free—actually, much of it paid for by taxpayers, a great number of whom couldn't care less about professional sports. Sooner or later colleges are going to wake up to the fact that they are—or at any rate *should* be—in the driver's seat in their relationship with the pros. After all, no matter how much the college athletic departments want to maintain ties to the pros, colleges don't need the pro leagues. On the other hand, the NFL is utterly dependent on the colleges for its product.

MICHAEL C. HENRY/SHUTLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY



Consider the following deal: The NFL must pay the cost of one academic scholarship for every athletic scholarship player who is drafted by the league. About 1,600 NFL players currently are under contract, virtually all of whom played college ball. The average value of a full athletic scholarship in 1992—the most recent year for which data were available—was between \$8,000 and \$9,000; let's allow for 1995 inflation and call it an even \$9,000.

Add the cost of maintaining one of these healthy young men for a year at college, which we'll reasonably assume to be another \$6,000. Does \$15,000 sound like a nice round number? And is it wrong to ask the pros to toss in an additional \$5,000 or so for every year the athlete has been in school? That's another year of training, after all.

So assume that on average a future NFL player spends three years in school and costs an average of \$25,000 to \$30,000 to maintain. If the colleges said they'd revert to a one-platoon game with no scholarships unless the pros picked up the tab, what would the NFL do? It would have no choice. It would make some arrangement, because if it had to pay for 500 players a year, even \$12 million or \$13 million is a drop in the bucket compared to what it would cost to start a minor league system.

The truth is, the arrangement would be

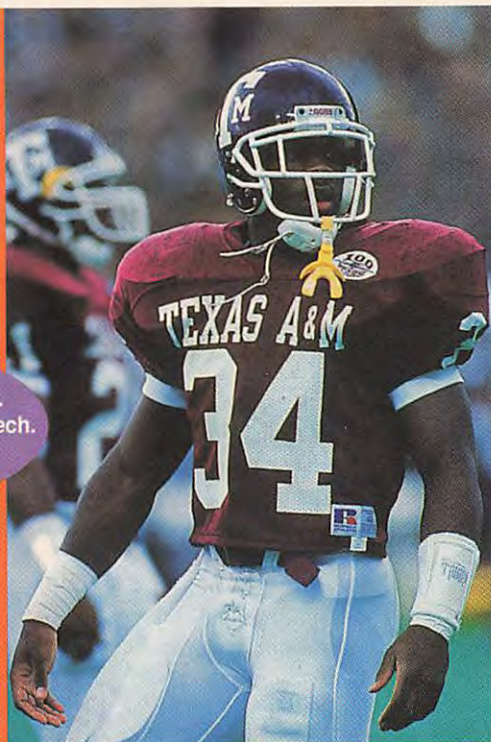
This is the last go-round for the Southwest Conference. In the league's 81st and final season, **Texas A&M** just might send the SWC out in style, as the Aggies set their sights on a national championship. They'll need strong efforts from junior running back Leeland McElroy and senior quarterback Corey Pullig, but defense is the heart of the attack. A&M ranked fifth in

## SWC

**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Texas A&M. (2) Texas. (3) Texas Christian. (4) Texas Tech. (5) Baylor. (6) Rice. (7) Southern Methodist. (8) Houston.

the nation in defense last season and should at least equal that performance.

Defense certainly wasn't **Texas'** strong suit last year, when the Longhorns scored 331 points but allowed 260. The defense, led by defensive end Tony Brackens, should be faster and more aggressive in '95. Sophomore quarterback James Brown strengthened his grip on the starting job last spring while his competition, junior Shea Morenz, was playing baseball. **Texas Christian** returns 14 starters from a team that landed a berth in the Independence Bowl, while **Texas Tech** coach Spike Dykes hopes his young team can improve on last year's promising effort, which featured the school's first Cotton Bowl appearance since 1939.—Ken Sins



**The Aggies have the D; now McElroy—Mr. Everything—has to come through.**

DARREN CARROLL/ALLSPORT

## 1995 COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

After years of being lost in the shuffle of the "other" major conferences, the Western Athletic made a huge splash in the national collegiate ranks last year. Three WAC teams—Colorado State, Utah, and Brigham Young—each won 10 games and finished

**Campbell's quickness puts the whoosh in Air Force's split-back option.**

among the top 18 in the final Associated Press poll. However, the WAC might not do as well in '95; the whole league has improved, which will make it tough for any team to win 10 games.

As usual, **Brigham Young** will vie for the top spot. For the first time in two decades, the Cougars had to look to the junior-college ranks for starter at quarterback. They seem to have found a good one in Steve

## WAC

**PREDICTED FINISH:** (1) Brigham Young. (2) Fresno State. (3) Air Force. (4) Colorado State. (5) Utah. (6) San Diego State. (7) New Mexico. (8) Wyoming. (9) Hawaii. (10) Texas-El Paso.

Sarkisian. After a disappointing 5-7-1 record last season, **Fresno State** again should be a factor. The Bulldogs return 14 starters. Outside linebacker Gene Smith is one of the keys to upgrading a defense that was too porous last year. **Air Force** lost its first three games last year, then reeled off seven straight victories. With leading rusher Jake Campbell returning, the Falcons' split-back option attack should pick up where it left off.—Mike Sorensen

cheap at several times the price. First, no minor league could guarantee the NFL the enormous publicity the colleges do. The top collegiate players are household names before they sign their first pro contracts, and the NFL isn't about to give up its free publicity machines. Second, it's well within the realm of possibility that smart tax lawyers could show the pros how to write off the cost of supporting college sports as a charitable donation—read "tax deduction."

In addition, the money, while relatively insignificant to the pros, would be a huge windfall to the colleges. It immediately could be applied to academic scholarships—minority academic scholarships. If athletes can't be scholars, at least they can finance scholars.

The colleges don't need the pros; the pros need the colleges. When the folks who run college sports finally awake to this simple fact, they'll be on the verge of a revolution that could shift the power in sports from the pros directly to them. ■

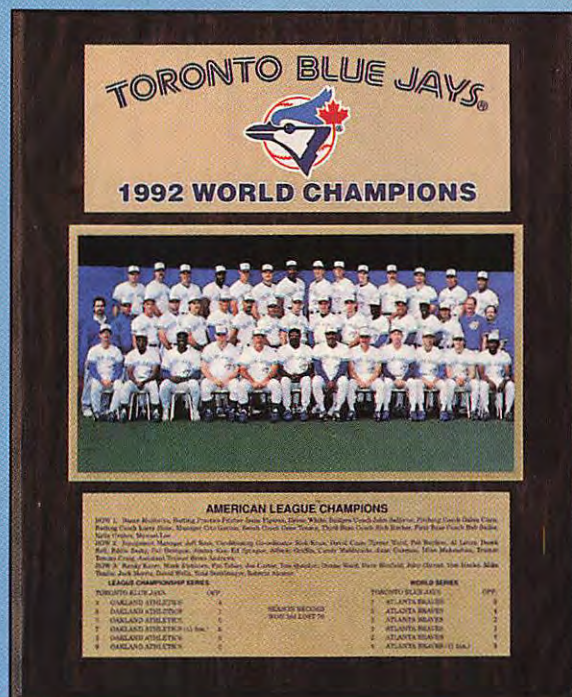
*It's understandable that senior writer ALLEN BARRA considers college football to be a religion—he used to live in Alabama.*

MICHAEL C. HERRICK/SHUTTERSTOCK PHOTOGRAPHY





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\* Raiders have silver plates on a black board.

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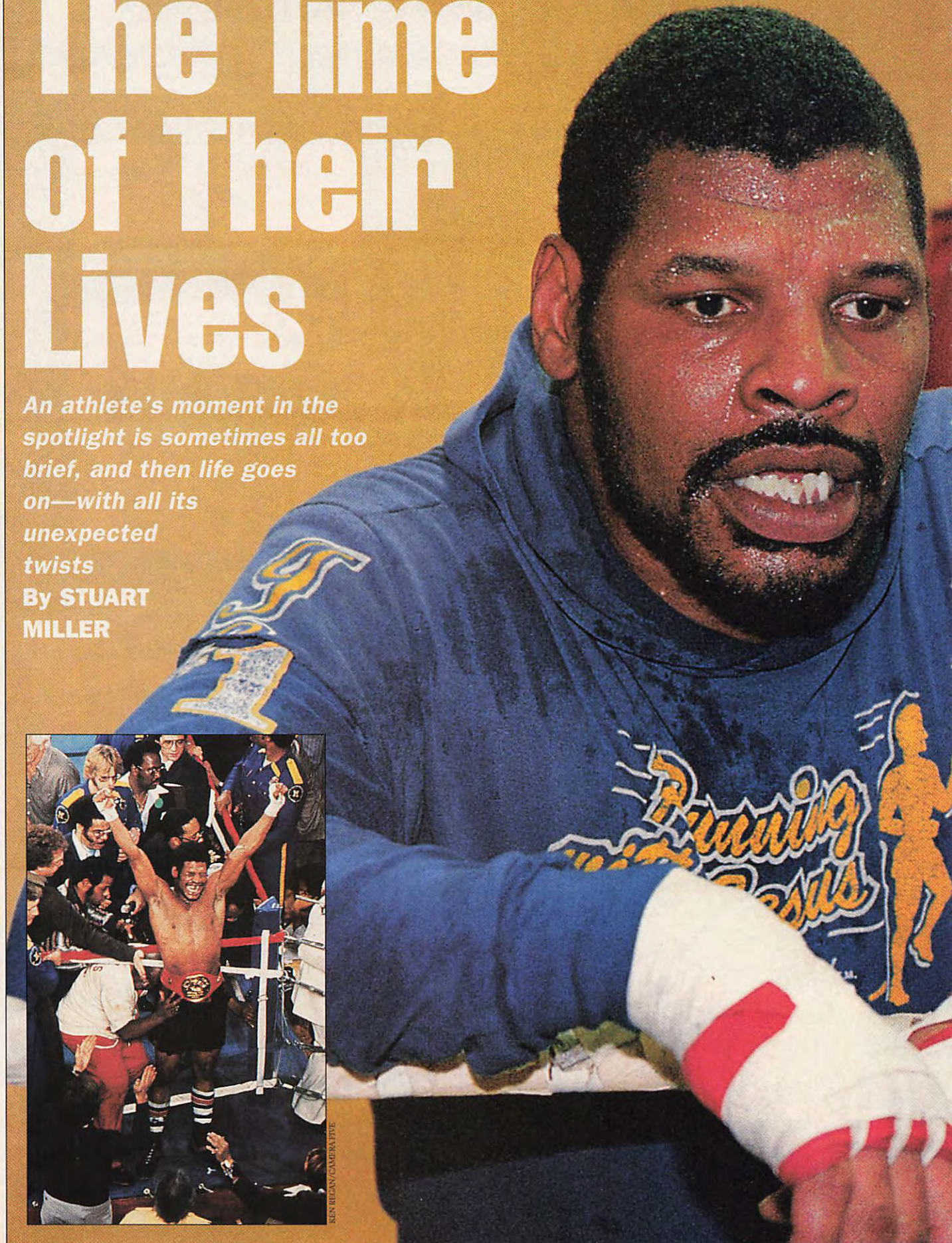
# The Time of Their Lives

*An athlete's moment in the spotlight is sometimes all too brief, and then life goes on—with all its unexpected twists*


**By STUART MILLER**



KEN REGAN/CAMERA-TIME







**W**HEN AN ATHLETE overcomes the odds and achieves the improbable, the laws of the universe seem to be suspended. Time slows and matter distorts: Baseballs swell, basketball hoops widen, linebackers shrink. The entire world looks on, yet all distractions melt away as the field opens up in slow motion or the last-second shot finds the net.

Then, the world reasserts itself. Fastballs whiz by, shots clang off the rim—and all that's left in the public mind is a memory of perfection.

Sandy Amoros, Doug Flutie, Mark Fidrych, Buster Douglas—many athletes have flashed brightly but briefly across the American sports firmament. These athletes were young men when they reached the summit, and while their names are forever associated with their singular accomplishments, each faced an entire life of dealing with both the sudden spotlight and the sometimes-jarring return to normalcy.

Changing public perception is no easy task. An image, once created, often takes on a life of its own that has no connection to the experiences of the person it supposedly identifies. "It's the toughest thing in the world if they give you a 'handle,'" says Rusty Staub, who spent 23 years in baseball's limelight. "Till the day you die, they're going to talk about that." Thus, when the man on the street hears "Leon Spinks," he probably thinks of the brash young boxer who stood dazzled by his own audacity after knocking out Muhammad Ali, not the broke, lost man who approaches middle age desperate to recapture a dream.

Whatever the circumstances or the cost, though, virtually every athlete who found the groove—however fleetingly—would refuse to swap that golden time for a long but anonymous

career. "A 10-year career would have been better for my family and my pension," says Joe Charboneau, a short-lived phenom with the Cleveland Indians, "but I wouldn't trade rookie of the year for anything." He laughs briefly. "The ultimate thing would have been both."

### LEON SPINKS boxer, 1978

*Muhammad Ali was "the Greatest"; Leon Spinks, 24, had just seven pro fights to back up his 1976 Olympic gold medal. However, after 15 bruising rounds in Las Vegas, Spinks stunned Ali and shocked the world by emerging as the heavyweight champion. Soon his gap-toothed grin graced the covers of magazines from coast to coast.*

*"I remember how great it felt," Spinks says, "and the world let me know it. I don't think I came down to the ground for about four or five days."*

*When he finally did, he hit with a thud. Spinks lost to Ali seven months later; he squandered his earnings, racked up more DWIs than KOs, and became standard fare for late-night comedians.*

It's Saturday night in St. Louis, and Leon Spinks is supposed to be working out. Though he lives in Chicago with his wife, Betty, he has returned to his hometown to "get back to my roots." However, Spinks insists he's looking ahead, not retreating to the past. "I plan on putting some more history in," he says. "I'm not through yet."

Inspired by George Foreman, the 42-year-old Spinks has his eye on the cruiserweight title. Although his loathing of exercise is legendary—"God, I hate doing pushups and sit-ups," he says—he's determined to find the discipline to hone his rusty skills. "It's tough, but I'm going to do it. I want to be champion. I don't want to stop halfway."

Spinks was on top of the world after beating Ali [left], but since then he's been trying to reclaim that moment.



Spinks was scheduled to train Friday afternoon, but he spent the day earning pocket money through Labor World, a local temp agency. Some days he moves bags of potatoes, others he does repair work in restaurants. After a Friday night interview, Spinks—sporting a thin mustache and beard, and dressed in a hooded sweatshirt, overalls, and a RUNNING WITH JESUS shirt—passed up the heavy bag to head out with Charlean, a neighborhood friend. Now it's Saturday at the Northside Bombers Boxing Club, and Spinks, who worked all day and has a cold, is shuffling stiffly out the door with Charlean, opting out of exercise again.

It's easy to see why the former champ would rather be elsewhere. Charles Hamm, a local plumber, runs this gym to help keep

had bad habits. Amid the chaotic struggle for power and purse in the Spinks camp after his victory over Ali, they translated into self-destruction.

"People were hollerin' and yankin' on me," Spinks says now. "I didn't know who to go to. I was on a merry-go-round, going round and round, trying to catch up with myself." He was ill-prepared for the rematch with Ali. A different advisor handled each round; his respected trainer, George Benton, walked out in mid-fight. Spinks says he was "more confused than anything. Everything was going fast."

Sporadically scheduled bouts against Gerrie Coetzee, Larry Holmes, and lesser lights ended in crushing defeats. Spinks dropped to cruiserweight and won the North American Boxing Federation title,

takes," he says. "Leon never—up to this day—changed his habits. Leon's had chances to regroup. He didn't take advantage of them."

Leon's latest comeback has hit new lows. Spinks won in June 1994 when his opponent, ahead on all three cards, refused to fight the ninth round—he thought only eight were scheduled. Last October Spinks avoided a similar controversy by getting KO'd in 69 seconds. Hamm says an ear infection hampered Spinks but acknowledges that the former champ fell for a fake right to the body and dropped his hands, a basic mistake.

A February bout was canceled by the Vancouver promoter a week before the gig; Hamm claims he wasn't sure why. As of press time, Hamm was unable to line up another bout for Spinks.

Despite the continuing difficulties and derision, Spinks is affable and willing to discuss his misfortunes, except the death of his oldest son, Leon Calvin, who died in 1990. Though he's a high school dropout and often slurs his speech, Spinks is no dolt; however, he's rarely focused or realistic. He declares he's learned from his mistakes, but the lessons he hands down are: "Live for the moment. What's done is done. You make mistakes—you can't change that just because people recognize your name."

Spinks says he'll return to school after regaining the championship. Or pursue an acting career. Or "any kind of singing." Or endorsements (though Lewis says the Spinks name is so tarnished even Michael's opportunities were severely limited). "I had my bad times," Leon says, "but I'm going to have a happy ending."

There is a growing chorus that demands Spinks retire before he suffers irreparable physical damage. "Anybody who lets him fight is contributing to his demise," says Fred Rupley, an investigator from the Illinois State Athletic Board. Rupley echoes the sentiments of everyone who knows Spinks: He's a warm, funny guy, with "the heart of a gladiator. But he can't get out of the way of a punch." Lewis says that Spinks "knows what a good boxer is. If he had to really come clean, he'd know he shouldn't be in that ring."

Everyone from Lewis to Spinks' last manager, John Caluwaert, says Spinks is going through the motions in the gym and drinking afterward. Spinks denies it—"My mind is clear"—but Andy Gountanis, owner of an Illinois bar called Crickets, acknowledges Spinks drank there regularly last year. Says Caluwaert: "He's his own worst enemy."

The best advice to Spinks may be to confront the alcohol problem, then apply his knowledge and his name to a career as a



STEVEN GOLDSTEIN

**Spinks works out at this St. Louis club—when he works out at all.**

kids off the streets. It's situated on a strip of boarded-up buildings; chunks of the ceiling are missing, wires are exposed, and strips of carpet remnants define the "canvas" of the ramshackle ring. The gym is held together by Hamm's determination and devotion to the community.

If only Hamm could share those qualities with Spinks, instead of merely his gym and his home, where Leon often crashes. Truth be told, though, Spinks lacked motivation even before stardom struck. Promoter Butch Lewis, who signed Leon and his brother, Michael, to their first contracts, says that during training for the '76 Olympic Games, while other fighters logged miles, Leon would relax behind a tree and splash water on his face afterward to simulate sweat.

"Leon had a great deal of talent, perhaps more than Michael," Lewis says. However, whereas Michael was disciplined, Leon

but was floored in his first defense. A 1988 comeback was stifled when he lost in 33 seconds to a late replacement.

The young boxer was out of control. Spinks drank to excess and blew \$4 million on mink coats, cars, and a costly divorce. He failed to meet mortgage payments and was evicted from his house; his possessions were sold when he didn't pay the storage fee. His life was reduced to traffic violations and odd jobs: bartender, greeter, pro wrestling official.

The sudden pressure of holding the heavyweight title, Spinks says, had knocked him out—he would have handled it better, with fewer arrests, later in his career. "I didn't realize this pedestal the heavyweight championship took me to," he says. "I didn't know I couldn't be human. I wish I had a chance to sit back and look at other people and their mistakes."

Lewis disagrees. "All of us make mis-

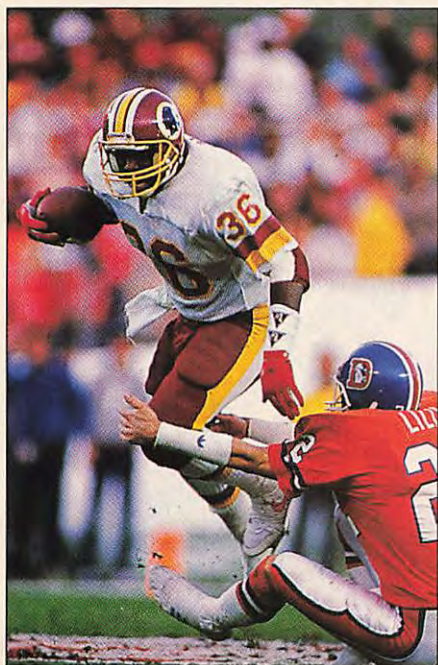


trainer or coach. However, before Spinks can find fulfillment outside the ring, he has to stop chasing his ghost inside it. Brother Michael urges him to "realize the mistakes have been made and there's nothing he can do to erase it. Leon's living a dream, a dream he should let die."

# **TIMMY SMITH** football player, 1988

Timmy Smith made the first start of his NFL career in Super Bowl 22 and carried 22 times for 204 yards, a rushing record that still stands. Behind his historic performance, the Washington Redskins buried the Denver Broncos 42-10. "It was like a big ol' light shining in your face," Smith says, "saying that you did the job right."

He gained less than 500 yards the next season, and was out of the NFL in two years.



Timmy Smith had "always dreamed of making the big play when everybody's watching," but since his 58-yard touchdown run in Super Bowl 22 the spotlight has been a brutal glare. These days the headlines no longer trumpet rushing stats. The number they blare out—\$73,000 owed in child support—makes him No. 1 among New Mexico's deadbeat dads.

Smith's plunge from grace began almost as soon as his moment of triumph ended. A shy man overwhelmed by the media crush, he was unprepared to live up to his new-found fame. He reportedly arrived at training camp for the next season 25 pounds overweight, and with a penchant for partying.

Smith contends he was "in great shape" but was weighed down by the Redskins' expectations. "I was really still a rookie,"

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he says. "All the pressure was on my back. They gave me the job expecting me to get 200 yards a game."

In short order he lost his starting job and his roster spot. Smith failed a tryout with the San Diego Chargers in 1989, then returned to the NFL briefly in 1990, rushing six times for six yards for the Dallas Cowboys. Smith believes his opportunities were limited because of drug rumors (he passed drug tests) and says he's been blackballed by NFL clubs. Last year he had a tryout with the Canadian Football League's Baltimore team. Although the club was impressed by his condition and work ethic, he failed to break into its backfield.

"They had their mind made up before I got there," Smith says. "They were wasting my time." Shifting targets, he adds: "The coach couldn't handle all the media attention I was getting. He wanted it focused on him."

Until recently living with his brother in Denver, Smith has no goals beyond football. Now 31, he's pinning his comeback hopes on the World League's rebirth but was ignored by its teams this year. "I'm in my prime," he says. "I want to play at least one more year, to prove to the people, to prove to myself I'm [not through]."

Smith avoids most interviews these days, hoping "to get this [child support issue] behind me, so it won't come up in the papers." He admits he looks back on his moment of glory with "bittersweet" emotions, arguing that his Super Bowl success caused his current troubles with the courts and the media. "If I were a normal guy," he says, "they probably wouldn't bother me."

The agency pursues anyone who fails to support their children, counters New Mexico child support bureau spokesperson Ben Silva, who adds that Smith also owes money in California. Says Silva: "He's not being treated any differently because he's Timmy Smith."

Smith was sentenced to 180 days in jail, suspended provided he arranges for his wages to be garnished by the state of New Mexico. Silva says the former running back can't elude his responsibilities forever, but shortly after talking to *INSIDE SPORTS*, Smith dropped out of sight: no job, no phone, no address.



**GARY McLAIN**  
basketball  
player, 1985

*As a senior point guard, McLain helped lead Villanova*

*to one of the biggest upsets in NCAA Tournament history, a 66-64 Finals win over defending champ Georgetown. "All the blood, sweat, and tears—the good times, the bad times—rolled into one magnificent night where you rose above the competition," he says.*

*However, McLain also was hooked on cocaine. His addiction sank any shot at the NBA, cost him a Wall Street job, and led to a confession on the cover of a major magazine.*

"I'm not the same individual I was," Gary McLain says of his days as a super Nova. "You don't always find the true nature of an individual until adversity strikes."

Dressed in a black leather trenchcoat, a crisp business suit, and a jazzy brown-and-gold tie, McLain looks sharp and self-assured. However, his cockiness has given way to a more reflective outlook. He savors his past successes but discusses his failures frankly, without averting his gaze or passing responsibility.

As a kid, McLain often pretended he was nailing the last-second shot and fantasized about "the big press conference, all the

microphones." So after making every shot he took (three-for-three from the floor, two-for-two from the line) in the biggest game of his life, McLain reveled in the hoopla.

His high was boosted by cocaine. McLain's drug use wasn't a response to sudden fame—he'd been freebasing all year and was wired in the semifinals against Memphis State—but he believes the jock's life played a part. "An athlete is given so much, you get clouded," he says.

Though drugs eventually overwhelmed McLain, on another level he entered corporate America better prepared than many stars. His high school coach had emphasized how few players make the pros. "I was realistic about who Gary McLain was," he says. "I was going to use [basketball] to move on to other avenues."

McLain knew society loves a champion,



but he never imagined how quickly open arms become cold shoulders. In 1987 he publicly came clean, and suddenly his fame was a liability. The response from individuals and the increased media coverage of the issue made it worthwhile, he says, but people simply wouldn't hire him.

Nowadays, when people want to talk hoops, the 31-year-old McLain—who has worked in ad sales for NYNEX, New York's telephone company, for nearly three years—is amenable but pragmatic. "I'm just another employee," he says. "Gary



McLain is only as good as his last sale, not his last championship game."

He has cast aside the "stinkin' thinkin'" that dragged him down—seeking the trendiest clubs, envying wealthier friends such as former teammate Ed Pinckney, now an NBA veteran—in favor of a life centered on his wife, Karen, and three-year-old daughter, Jade. Family, he says, has provided "serenity and peace with myself. I'm where I'm supposed to be."

McLain's hoop dreams consist of watching old tapes and playing in local leagues. "In fact, last night I dropped in 34," he says, laughing. Though he regrets not trying out for the NBA, he has stopped beating himself up over mistakes. "I put the sticks away a long time ago."

But he never lets himself forget life as an addict. "Those who don't remember it," McLain says, "are doomed to repeat it." Unlike a singular moment of glory, recovery is "a for-the-rest-of-my-life process."



**MIKE ERUZIONE**  
hockey  
player, 1980

*Amid Cold War tensions, the captain of the U.S. Olympic team scored the winning goal in a shocking 4-3 semifinal upset of the Soviet Union at Lake Placid, N.Y., a victory that captured the imagination of the nation. The Americans then beat Finland for the gold medal. "We didn't solve any of the world's problems," Eruzione says, "but we did bring back a lot of pride to our country."*

*Thirteen of the 20 Olympians went on to play in the NHL; Eruzione retired after the Games.*

Mike Eruzione hung up his skates after the Olympics and immediately found his footing. He became a power player on the banquet and seminar circuit, a spokesperson for several large corporations, and a sportscaster for Boston University hockey. Today, his action-packed schedule also includes being BU's director of special programs and his newest, favorite role: volunteer assistant coach for his alma mater's hockey team.

Eruzione's goals had been to attend college—an opportunity his parents never had—and then coach and teach. He didn't expect the Olympics to change his life, but once he saw the doors a gold medal opened, he rushed right through.

His greatest frustration has been the perception that he retired rather than risk failure in the NHL. The Olympic victory gave his teammates who aspired to the NHL "instant credibility," but Eruzione never gave it a shot. He never doubted that he'd make it in the big leagues, but says simply, "It was time to move on with my life."

Cynics are the exception, though; most waiters, cabbies, and businessmen prefer to reminisce. "You see the smile come across people's faces," Eruzione says, "and it's nice to know you were able to touch so many people's lives in a positive way."

Eruzione, who lives near his extended family in Winthrop, Mass., knows celebrity ultimately matters less than skills, brains, and determination. "I'm smart enough to know if it weren't for 1980, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing," he says, "but I'm also smart enough to know I wouldn't be doing it if I weren't doing a good job."

"If we lost, I'd have taught and coached and been very happy with my life. I was me before I was an athlete. There's more to life than athletics. It's who you are and what you believe in that is going to carry on."

**AL WEIS**  
baseball  
player, 1969

*Weis batted .455 in the World Series as New York's "Miracle Mets" toppled the Baltimore Orioles in five games. Weis, who to that point had a .222 average and six homers in eight big-league seasons, drove in the winning run in Game 2 and tied Game 5 with a 7th-inning homer. "I had two good weeks of baseball," Weis says. "It happened to be in the 1969 World Series."*

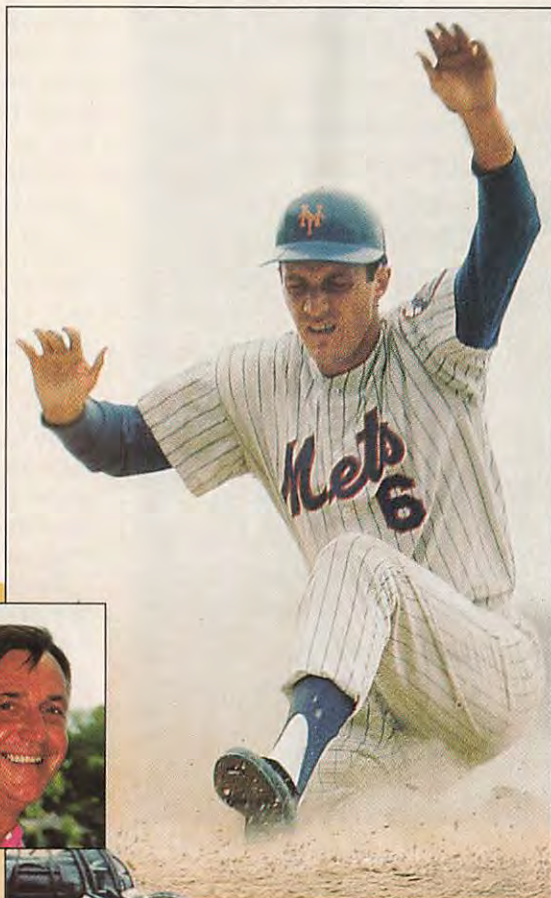
*Weis hit .189 in 132 at-bats over the next two seasons, then left baseball.*

In the Chicago suburb of Elmhurst, people rarely connect the furniture company employee with the World Series star. "People don't recognize me," says the 57-year-old Weis, content in his anonymity. "I'm kind of low-key. I didn't like the limelight."

If not for a few fortuitous curves, Weis never would have had the chance for glory. Growing up on Long Island, he wasn't scouted and "never dreamed about playing in the big leagues," but the Chicago White Sox spotted him playing ball in the Navy.

He made the major leagues as a backup second baseman—in fact, he briefly won a starting job, but "hitting was my downfall." The Mets acquired Weis from the White Sox in 1968 as insurance in case a regular was called for military duty. And in a final twist of fate, the right-handed Weis got his Series at-bats because Baltimore started lefties in four games.

"If I had played in the World Series for any other manager besides Gil Hodges, I don't think I would have done as well," Weis says wryly. "He had a way of bring-



ing out the best in everybody."

Despite his success on baseball's biggest stage, Weis easily avoided the high life. "I didn't have that much money to squander," he says. "I had a family. You don't just go out and do stupid things." His even-keeled approach helped in 1970, when he returned to the bench. "Everybody wants to play all the time, but there are only nine positions. I knew my role."

The only time vanity interfered came after the Mets released him in 1971, and Weis rejected the White Sox's offer of a Triple-A contract. In retrospect, he regrets letting pride rob him of another shot at the majors. Weis doesn't lament not staying in New York to cash in on his modicum of fame, though—New York was "too fast" for this quiet man. "I worked hard all these years," he says, "but I'm happy." ■



Where did the "seventh-inning stretch" come from?

J.H., Elmhurst, IL

Legend has it an early umpire crew wanted to take a smoke break. So they gathered behind home plate and lit up their Benson & Hedges 100's. While the umpires enjoyed their favorite extra-long cigarette, the fans had nothing to do but stand and stretch. They even had time to make up a song. And since it happened in the seventh inning, it became the seventh-inning stretch.



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**How many times have the coach of the year and league MVP in a given NBA season come from the same team? How many of those teams won the league championship?**

**D.S., Brooklyn**

The winner of the NBA's coach of the year award has been with the same team as the season's most valuable player six times since the coaching award was established for the 1962-63 season. Three of those duos were on title teams.

However, the coach of the year-MVP double has happened just once since 1972-73: Pat Riley and Magic Johnson of the Lakers won the awards in Los Angeles' 1989-90 championship season. While the MVP honor frequently goes to a player who leads his team to a title, when it comes to coaches, the writers and broadcasters who do the voting tend to give the award to someone who does more with his team than had been expected of it; 1994-95 winner Del Harris, who led the Lakers on a surprising run to the Western Conference semifinals, is a good example.

Here's the complete list of coach of the year-MVP combos (league champions in bold):

Season	Team	Coach	MVP
1989-90	Los Angeles Lakers	Pat Riley	Magic Johnson
1972-73	Boston Celtics	Tom Heinsohn	Dave Cowens
1969-70	New York Knicks	Red Holzman	Willis Reed
1968-69	Baltimore Bullets	Gene Shue	Wes Unseld
1965-66	Philadelphia 76ers	Dolph Schayes	Wilt Chamberlain
1964-65	Boston Celtics	Red Auerbach	Bill Russell

**Deion Sanders' two-sport venture prompts me to ask: Has anyone been inducted into the Hall of Fame of more than one major sport?**

**P.L., Massapequa, N.Y.**

Only one person, but he wasn't a player in both sports. Cal Hubbard, who played nine seasons as a tackle for four NFL teams in the 1920s and '30s, went on to become a respected American League umpire-in-chief, earning Hall of Fame favor from both the NFL and baseball in the process. Incidentally, he's also a member of the College Football Hall of Fame, as one of the outstanding small-college players of all time. Hubbard played at Centenary College in Shreveport, La., and Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa.

There are some interesting crossover members in other, less prominent halls of fame. AFL founder and longtime Kansas City Chiefs owner Lamar Hunt was an obvi-

ous choice for the Pro Football Hall of Fame. He also earned a spot in the International Tennis Hall of Fame as co-founder of the World Championship Tennis circuit, and a berth in the U.S. Soccer Hall of Fame as an original investor in the North American Soccer League. Amos Alonzo Stagg is in the College Football Hall of Fame for his exploits as a player at Yale and as a coach at the University of Chicago, and he also earned induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame for changing James Naismith's disorganized invention into a coherent five-man game.

As far as we can tell, Don Drysdale and Ann Meyers are the only husband-and-wife Hall of Fame team. The late Drysdale, a pitching great with the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers, entered Cooperstown in 1984. Meyers, a four-year All-American with the UCLA women's basketball team and the first (and so far the only) woman to sign an NBA free-agent contract (with the Indiana Pacers in 1979), was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1993.

**How many dunks has Michael Jordan had in his pro basketball career?**

**P.O., Lansing, Mich.**

Oddly enough in these stat-happy times, the NBA doesn't keep track of dunks, the signature play for the league's high-flying image. Luckily, Philadelphia 76ers statistics guru Harvey Pollack has been keeping slam totals since the 1987-88 season, Jordan's fourth in the NBA.

Pollack has Jordan down for 746 dunks in 485 regular-season games from '87-88 through '92-93 (stats from MJ's return aren't yet in)—an average of 1.54 dunks per game. For his 805-game NBA career, including postseason contests and his 27-game 1995 campaign, that projects to 1,238 Jordan jams.

Although Jordan is perhaps the most acrobatic dunker the NBA has seen, he is far from the most prolific. According to Pollack's stats, Shaquille O'Neal dunked 703 times in his first two NBA seasons (162 games), for an astounding 4.34 jams per game. ■

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# LETTERS

## ■ Swimsuits

Congratulations on yet another great swimsuit issue [April 1995]. You have a superb combination of outstanding models, photographers, and beautiful locales, plus a support team that helps make it all possible. The only thing your swimsuit issue lacks is the 40-year reputation of your competitor—and all the publicity it attracts.

Whatever you do, bring Amy Owen and Justine Bentley back for next year's issue. My one disappointment was that Amy is in only six photos this time, down from 1994. Amy is incredibly beautiful, with supermodel potential. The issue wouldn't be the same without Justine's sunny smile, either.

**Marshal Ray,  
Bowling Green, Ky.**

Well, you did it again: You topped last year's swimsuit issue. How do you do it? Every year it gets better and better. Amy Owen and Justine Bentley are absolutely adorable.

I can't wait for next year's issue.

**Philip E. Retenauer,  
Pittsburgh**

*Why wait until next year?  
Here's another look at  
Justine and Amy.—Ed.*

INSIDE SPORTS put together a great swimsuit issue this year. Every decision you and your staff made turned out to be perfect. The locales were spectacular, the photography was sharp and tasteful, and the models chosen were healthy and happy.

In fact, the inclusion of guys helped the overall tone. The couples look like they are genuinely having fun throughout the layout, and this made the magazine very enjoyable.

**Craig Gilbert,  
Reseda, Calif.**

I want to commend you on including male models in your swimsuit issue. It was nice to see men for once. I'm sure your other female sports fans feel the same way.

**Lori Isom,  
Jefferson City, Mo.**

## ■ The Bambino

I've been a subscriber to your magazine for at least five years, along with several other sports publications. Thomas Boswell's article on Babe Ruth, "Everyman and Superman," in the May 1995 issue was definitely one of the best I have ever read. I'd like to say thanks to Mr. Boswell for giving teenagers like me a chance to see what the Babe was really like. It's too bad we don't have more sports figures like him these days.

This article was so good I went out and

left out Denver's John Elway? He, not Troy Aikman, should have provided the "right arm" for your ideal player. Elway's arm is much stronger than Aikman's.

**John Rotondo,  
Houston**

## ■ No Way, Jose

Regarding your June interview with Jose Canseco ["Mr. Mellow and the Monster"]: Oakland Athletics manager Tony La Russa read him well. He's not a team player. We all have personal lives to deal with—could Canseco hold a real job?

The fans created this sports monster, and the fans will destroy the sports monster. We learned that there is life without pro baseball and hockey. Pro athletes are the most overpaid workers in the world; Little Leaguers and Pop Warner kids try harder. Professional sports changed a game into a financial nightmare for everyone involved. American professional athletes eventually will kill the golden goose.

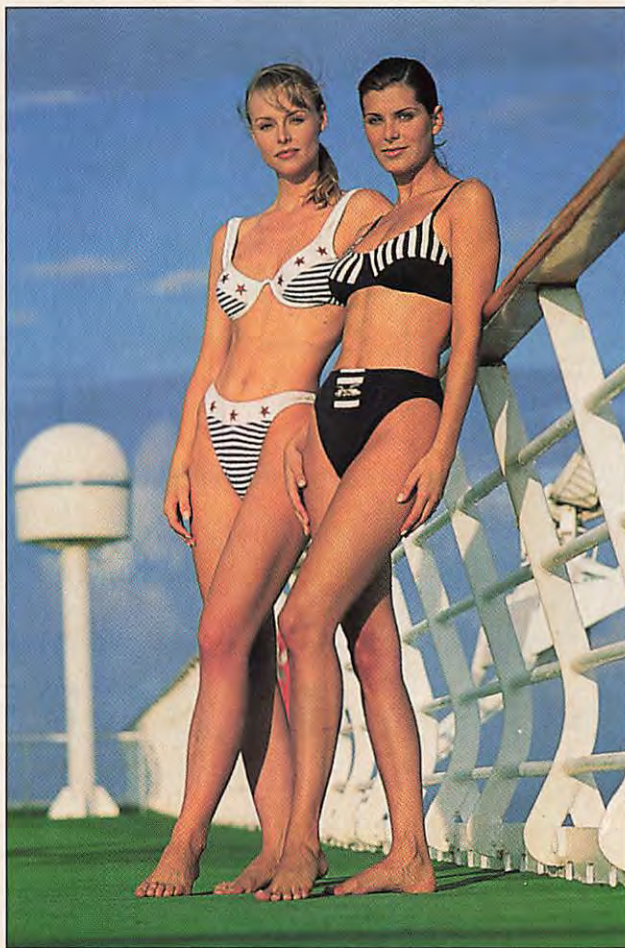
Expansion "athletes" would have been looking for jobs 40 years ago. The world has more important matters to deal with than sports greed. Send the spoiled brats out to work.

How dare Canseco compare himself with Babe Ruth, Hank Aaron, or Joe DiMaggio?

**Pete Ferlita,  
Three Bridges, N.J.**

Jose Canseco says that against the players of today, Joe DiMaggio, Babe Ruth, and Hank Aaron would have no chance. Get real! If it wasn't for all the expansion teams, many of today's overpaid, so-called major-leaguers would be in the minors, and many others would be in the bullpen eating peanuts and chasing down foul balls. Canseco has to be kidding!

**Robert C. Gilleo,  
Columbus**



**One more cruise: Justine and Amy, together again.**

bought a copy of Robert Creamer's biography, "Babe." Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to find out about one of America's all-time heroes.

**Donald R. Yates,  
Collingdale, Pa.**

## ■ The Arms Race

On your May cover you depicted the NFL's "perfect man," made up of parts from various players. How could you have

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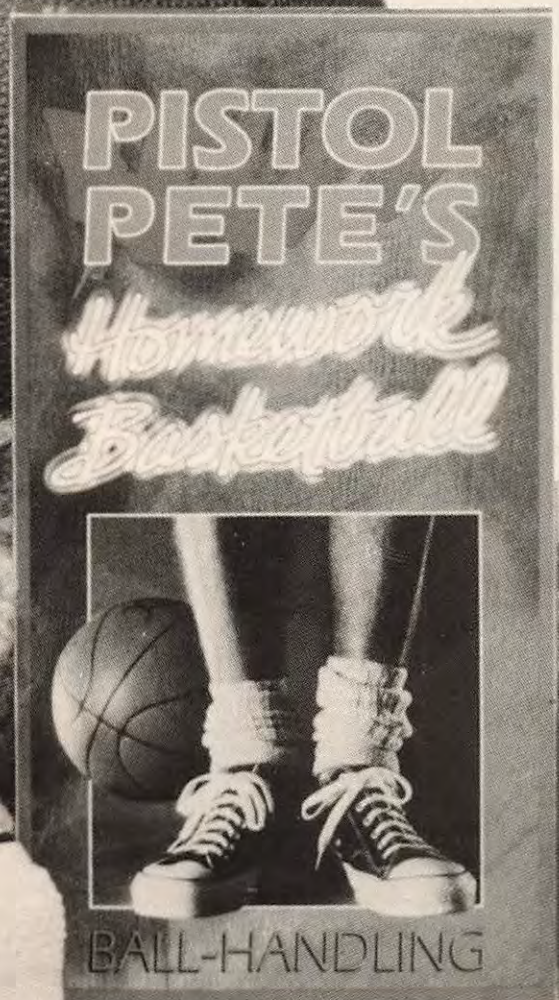
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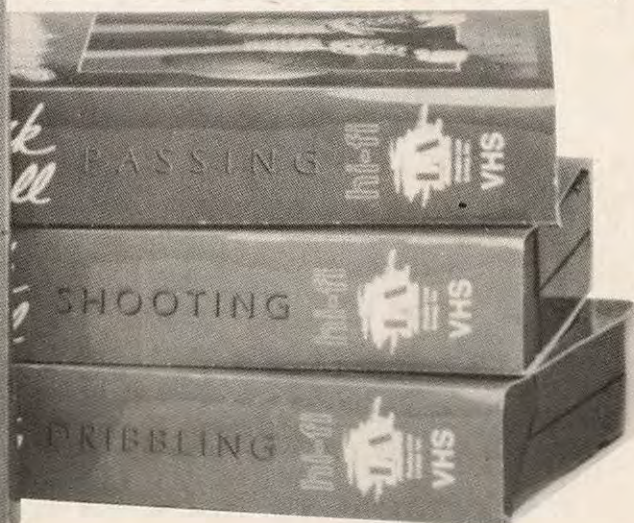
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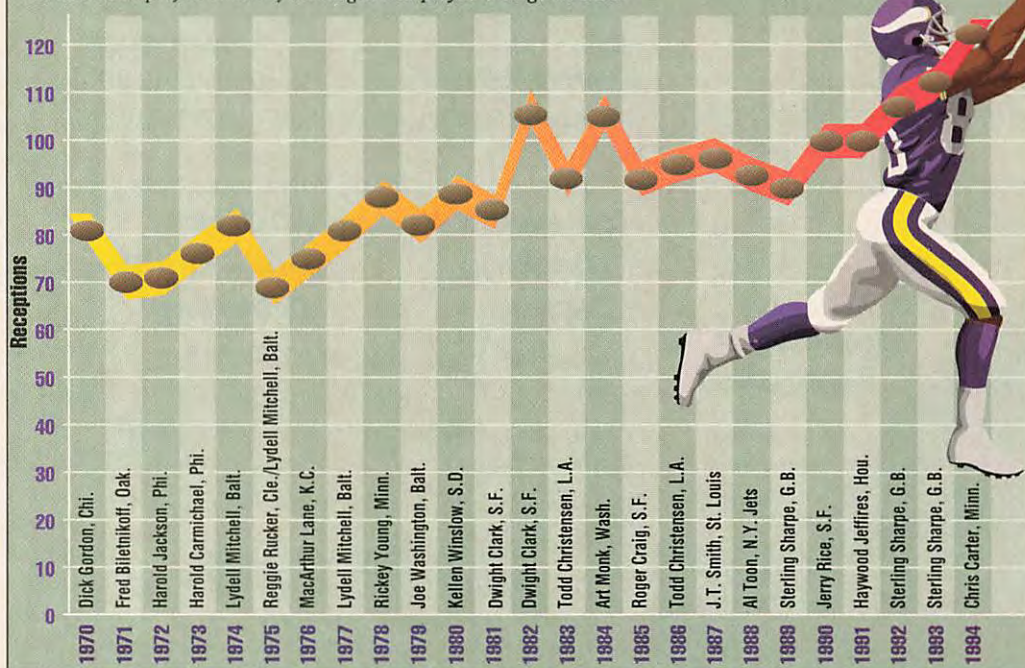
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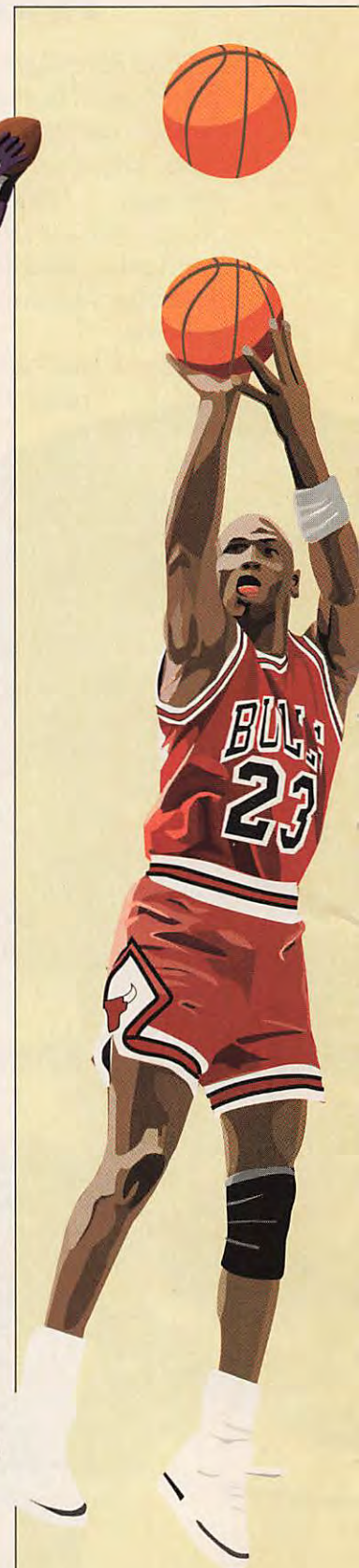
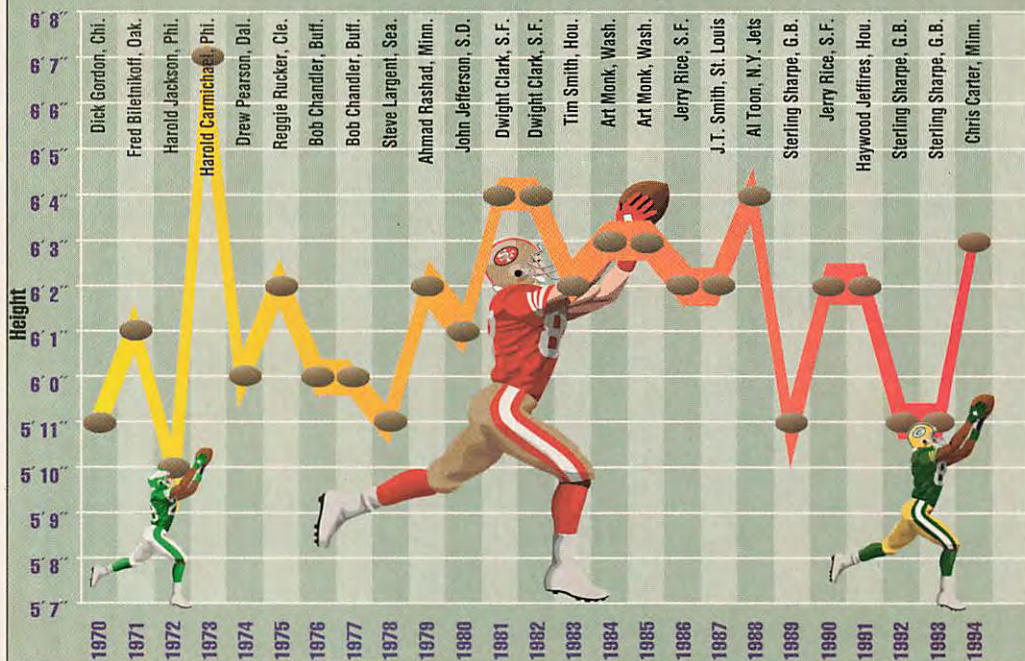
## IT'S CATCHING

In 1994 Chris Carter of the Minnesota Vikings caught 122 passes, shattering the NFL season receptions record. In fact, the reception total for the league leader in that category has been rising fairly steadily over the past 25 seasons, as the chart below indicates. During the 1970s the reception leaders averaged about 78 catches a season. The average has risen to nearly 100 for the period 1980 through 1994. *Note: Totals are adjusted for a 16-game schedule—for instance, Dwight Clark's 60 receptions in the nine-game, strike-shortened 1982 season project to 107 if the league had played a 16-game slate.*



## A TALL ORDER

Smurfs seem to be passé in NFL wide receiving circles, but although plenty of teams covet big, powerful wideouts such as Michael Irvin of the Dallas Cowboys, an under-six footer like Sterling Sharpe often is equally able to get the job done. A look at the heights of the NFL wide receivers with the most catches each season from 1970 to 1994 indicates that height apparently doesn't matter as much as hands and heart.





## FIRE WHEN READY

It certainly didn't take Michael Jordan long to get the ol' shooting hand warmed up. Despite coming off a basketball layoff of more than a season and a half, Jordan led the NBA in shot attempts per 48 minutes in 1994-95. Here are the most willing and most reluctant shooters in the NBA last season, as judged by the number of shot attempts per 48 minutes:

MOST				
Player, Team	Min.	FGA	Per 48	
1. Michael Jordan, Bulls	668	404	29.0	
2. Shaquille O'Neal, Magic	2,923	1,594	26.2	
3. Hakeem Olajuwon, Rockets	2,853	1,545	26.0	
4. Jamal Mashburn, Mavericks	2,980	1,566	25.2	
5. Jimmy Jackson, Mavericks	1,982	1,026	24.8	
6. Patrick Ewing, Knicks	2,920	1,452	23.9	
7. Karl Malone, Spurs	3,126	1,548	23.8	
8. Cliff Robinson, Trail Blazers	2,725	1,320	23.3	
9. David Robinson, Spurs	3,074	1,487	23.2	
10. M. Abdul-Rauf, Nuggets	2,082	1,005	23.2	

FEWEST				
1. Ed Pinckney, Bucks	835	97	5.6	
2. James Donaldson, Jazz	613	74	5.8	
3. Lorenzo Williams, Mavericks	2,383	304	6.1	
4. Jim McVaine, Bulls	534	71	6.4	
5. Joe Wolf, Hornets	583	81	6.7	
6. Dennis Rodman, Spurs	1,568	240	7.3	
7. Michael Cage, Cavaliers	2,040	340	8.0	
8. Greg Anderson, Hawks	622	104	8.0	
9. Anthony Bonner, Knicks	1,126	193	8.2	
10. Alton Lister, Bucks	776	134	8.3	

## SIXTH SENSE

For the NBA's sixth men, it's not whether you start—it's how many minutes you play. These are the NBA players with the most minutes per game in 1994-95 among those who started fewer than 10 games:

Player, Team	Min.	MPG
1. Marty Conlon, Bucks	2,064	25.2
2. Chuck Person, Spurs	2,033	25.1
3. Ricky Pierce, Warriors	673	24.9
4. Dell Curry, Hornets	1,718	24.9
5. Dale Ellis, Nuggets	1,996	24.6
6. Roy Tarpley, Mavericks	1,354	24.6
7. Vincent Askew, SuperSonics	1,721	24.2
8. Craig Ehlo, Hawks	1,166	23.8
9. Darrick Martin, Timberwolves	803	23.6
10. Brian Shaw, Magic	1,836	23.5

## THE EARLY HOOK

On the other hand, there's something to be said for hearing your name announced in the starting lineup—even if you're yanked shortly thereafter. These are the NBA players with the fewest minutes per game among those who started a minimum of 70 games in 1994-95.

Player, Team	Min.	MPG
1. Will Perdue, Bulls	1,592	20.4
2. Kenny Smith, Rockets	2,030	25.1
3. Rodney Rogers, Nuggets	2,142	26.8
4. Chris Dudley, Trail Blazers	2,245	27.4
5. Lorenzo Williams, Mavericks	2,383	29.1
6. Buck Williams, Trail Blazers	2,422	29.5
7. Eric Montross, Celtics	2,315	29.7
8. Reggie Williams, Nuggets	2,198	29.7
9. Popeye Jones, Mavericks	2,385	29.8
10. Sean Rocks, Timberwolves	2,405	30.1

Note: NBA stats are for players with at least 500 minutes in 1994-95.

## INSIDE SPORTS



## Weekly Winners

Nov. 20 John Wilson	Tucson, AZ	\$150.00
Robin Anderson	Glendale, AZ	\$100.00
Nov. 27 Mike Sheppard	Rowley, MA	\$150.00
Chris Rainey	Mission Viejo, CA	\$100.00
Dec. 4 Robert Williams	Columbus, OH	\$150.00
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Dec. 11 Brian Padula	Whitinsville, MA	\$150.00
Daniel Freund	Edison, NJ	\$100.00
Dec. 18 Robert Goodson	Atlanta, GA	\$150.00
Robert Bull	Farmers Branch, TX	\$100.00
Dec. 25 Irwin Pumeroy	Lakeport, CA	\$150.00
Russ Tucker	Scarsborough, ON	\$100.00
Jan. 1 Maurice Patry	Sturgeon Falls, ON	\$150.00
Michael Stanley	Bronx, NY	\$100.00
Jan. 8 Connie Calvanese	Aston, PA	\$150.00
Michael Cleff	Decatur, IL	\$100.00
Jan. 15 Jeff Sippil	Highland Park, IL	\$150.00
Casey Mattson	Marshall, MN	\$100.00
Jan. 22 Richie Hyun	Burbank, CA	\$150.00
Albert Keller	Port Alberni, BC	\$100.00
Jan. 29 John Milligan	Derby, NY	\$150.00
James Farias	Fall River, MA	\$100.00

## Final Standings

Name	City/State	Points	Price
1. Scott Switalla	Los Angeles, CA	28,215	\$15,000
2. Andrew Hoffman	Newton, MA	28,087	\$5,000
3. Jay Darnell	Naperville, IL	28,050	\$3,000
4. Jeffrey Harshman	Austin, TX	28,012	\$2,000
5. Wendy Holmes	Plains, KS	27,924	\$1,000
6. Jason Ruppert	Buffalo, NY	27,876	\$100
7. Keith Hanson	Brewster, WA	27,849	\$100
8. Mike Price	Raleigh, NC	27,846	\$100
9. Lee Hulman	San Mateo, CA	27,794	\$100
10. Brett Thum	Kissimmee, FL	27,787	\$100
11. Jeff Hasselberger	Tucson, AZ	27,751	\$75
12. Steve Tingas	Park Ridge, IL	27,727	\$75
13. Domenic Staffieri	Toronto, ON	27,693	\$75
14. Doug Mussler	Irvine, TX	27,692	\$75
15. Kenneth Carter	Memphis, TN	27,688	\$75
16. Brent Keuffer	Cincinnati, OH	27,667	\$75
17. Sheila Miller	Kokomo, IN	27,644	\$75
18. Keith Smith	Edinburg, VA	27,637	\$75
19. Mirsad Nikovic	Brooklyn, NY	27,630	\$75
20. Michael Corbett	Farm. Hills, MI	27,629	\$75

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Feb. 12 Mark Meade	Kinnelon, NJ	\$150.00
Ken Segerberg	Berkeley, CA	\$100.00
Feb. 19 Joseph Strozski	Buxton, NC	\$150.00
Jeff Yaslowitz	Clearwater, FL	\$100.00
Jan. 29 Joseph Moffitt	Hatfield, PA	\$150.00
Richard Rothwell	Rockford, MI	\$100.00
Mar. 5 Carol Porter	San Carlos, CA	\$150.00
Peter Grossman	San Carlos, CA	\$100.00
Mar. 12 Rolando Espinosa	Torrance, CA	\$150.00
Lee Hulman	San Mateo, CA	\$100.00
Mar. 19 Mike Thompson	Claremont, CA	\$150.00
Ron Sluyter II	Farmington Hills, MI	\$100.00
Mar. 26 Eric Werries	Pittsburgh, PA	\$150.00
Connie Calvanese	Aston, PA	\$100.00
April 2 David French	Pomona, CA	\$150.00
Jeffrey Ross	Kent, WA	\$100.00
April 9 Eric Saranik	Old Bethpage, NY	\$150.00
Daniel Jones	Westerville, OH	\$100.00
April 16 Ron Stasiowski	Lawrence, MA	\$150.00
Roger Holmes	Plains, KS	\$100.00
April 23 Perry White	Louisville, KY	\$150.00
John Horton	Richmond Hill, ON	\$100.00

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# THE GOOD DOCTOR

**W**hat's the name of that movie about the wrongly accused Seattle SuperSonic?

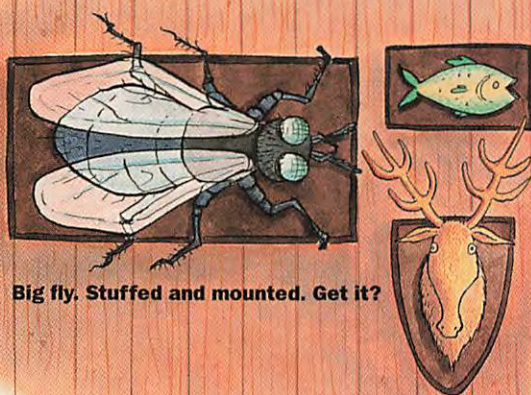
G.P., LIBBY, MONT.

"The Shawn Kemp Redemption."

**F**ly-fishing is becoming one of the most popular summer activities. Are you a fly-fisherman, Doc?

R.R., BAR NUNN, WYO.

Funny you should ask. On the wall of my lodge, just north of you in Wyoming, I have



Big fly. Stuffed and mounted. Get it?

mounted

a 250-pound fly that

I caught near Green River. Got him with a swatter and a huge No-Pest Strip.

**W**hat advice did power-of-positive-thinking guru Anthony Robbins give to Barry Melrose about the Los Angeles Kings?

C.R., KALAMAZOO, MICH.

"I'm positive they're looking for a new coach."

**N**ow that Joe Montana has retired, what does he plan to do for a living?

S.K., DOVER-FOXCROFT, MAINE

Joe has joined the San Francisco 49ers as quarterbacks coach. He promises to find a new starter by opening day.

**I**t seems as if "Chris" is the most popular name on ESPN: Berman, Fowler, Mortensen. Who else has ESPN hired?

J.W., SOUTHLINGTON, CONN.

Columbus, Kringle, Kristofferson, and Farley.

**H**ow far back does professional bowling on TV date?

C.S., LEAD, S.D.

Well, Chris Schenkel first broadcast the Bedrock Firestone Open, won by Fred Flintstone Sr. over Nelson Rubble Jr.

**C**incinnati got real excited about the Bengals drafting running back Ki-Jana Carter. How excited?

D.S., LONDON, OHIO

The town changed its name to "Ki-Cinnati."

**W**hat were the umpires asking for in their contract dispute with Major League Baseball?

B.F., BLUE SPRINGS, MO.

Brooms with longer handles. Masks with AM-FM stereo. The right to set food and drinks atop catchers. And between-inning back rubs from ball girls.

**S**teve Sax announced he's running for political office in California. What inspired Steve to run?

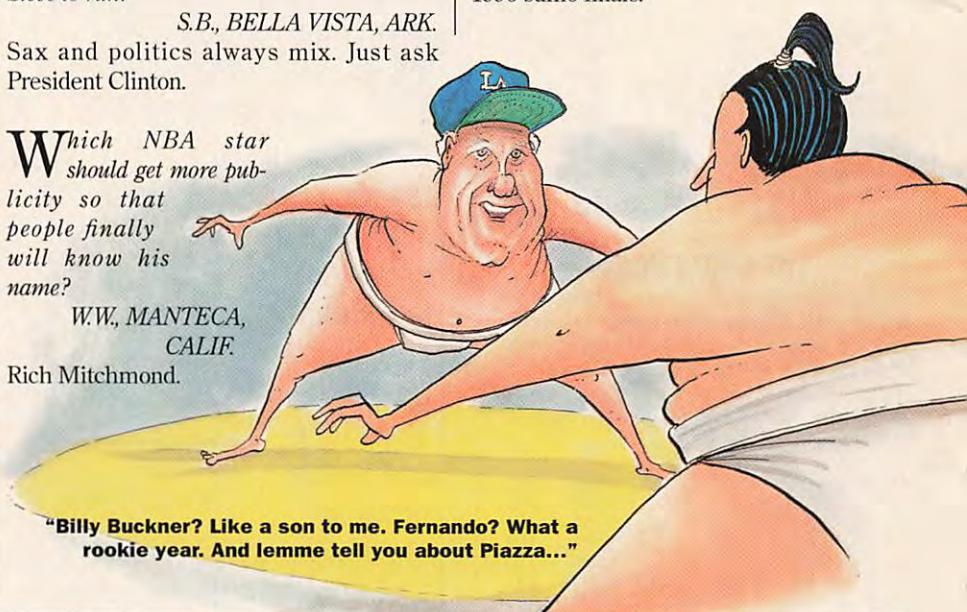
S.B., BELLA VISTA, ARK.

Sax and politics always mix. Just ask President Clinton.

**W**hich NBA star should get more publicity so that people finally will know his name?

W.W., MANTECA, CALIF.

Rich Mitchmond.



"Billy Buckner? Like a son to me. Fernando? What a rookie year. And lemme tell you about Piazza..."

**S**o Mike Tyson bought a '95 BMW after leaving prison. Big deal.

M.C., NORTH BERGEN, N.J.

You misunderstood. Mike Tyson bought 95 BMWs.

**H**ouston's first pick in the NFL draft was Steve McNair. Why would the Oilers want someone from small-college football?

J.F., ORANGE, TEXAS

The real question is, why would someone from small-college football want the Oilers?

**I**don't understand why anyone would do a movie about a University of Alabama sub. Couldn't they at least feature a starter?

G.S., CLANTON, ALA.

I take it you didn't actually see the movie "Crimson Tide," did you?

**W**hat's this hot new sandwich Chicago delicatessens are naming after a running back?

C.K., BROOKFIELD, ILL.

"Russian Salami."

**J**apanese pitcher Hideo Nomo joined the Los Angeles Dodgers this year. What did the Dodgers have to give to Japan in return?

P.O., BEMIDJI, MINN.

They had to loan Tommy Lasorda for the 1996 sumo finals.



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How did those old baseball players keep themselves in such good shape throughout their careers?

C.R., HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.  
They never had to eat airplane food.

Do you believe that today's TV commercials are good influences on children?

L.B., EVANSVILLE, IND.  
Oh, sure. Especially the ones with Bonnie Blair riding a bicycle over water, Carl Lewis jumping off the Statue of Liberty, and Andre Agassi and Pete Sampras playing tennis in the street.

Birmingham's minor league baseball club isn't still selling Michael Jordan merchandise, is it?

B.B., GREENWOOD, MISS.  
Sure is. Among the souvenirs you can buy: the bat from Michael's only extra-base hit, \$39.95; Michael's meal money receipts, \$9.95; and Michael's empty locker hangers, 95 cents each.

How many consecutive games will Cal Ripken eventually play in?

P.A., ELIZABETHTON, TENN.  
Without labor strikes, 3,000. With strikes, maybe 20 or 25 more.

Dan Marino of the Miami Dolphins has his own TV talk show. What's it called?

E.P., CHERAW, S.C.  
He hasn't decided. Among the names he's considering: "The Dan Marino Show," "Danny Jesse Marino," "The All-Pro Winfrey Show," "Danny and Kathie Lee," and, of course, "Good Morning, Marino!"

Any unusual revelations in Reggie Miller's new autobiography?

S.L., HARRODSBURG, KY.  
Only that during the 1992-93 NBA season Reggie took two weeks off without telling anybody, and his sister Cheryl took his place. No one ever knew.

What's the thing they'll need most at the first Jacksonville Jaguars-Carolina Panthers game?

B.P., CONCORD, N.C.  
Kitty litter. ■

In a fever to know what really goes on in the world of sports? Will you feel awful until you find out? Send for a diagnosis to: The Good Doctor, 990 Grove Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201—then wait patiently.



## Final Standings

Name	City/State	Points	Prize
1. David Tilley	Fredericton, NB	740	\$10,000
2. Ken Stapleton	Calgary, AB	739	\$5,000
3. Roy Chartrand	Richmond Hill, ON	737	\$2,000
4. Dave Organ	Burgeo, NF	732	\$1,000
5. Bill McCarthy	Narberth, PA	730	\$350
5. Dave Sabol	Marlton, NJ	730	\$350
7. Gifford Horton	Richmond Hill, ON	729	\$200
8. Joseph Caddle	Toronto, ON	727	\$200
8. Hughie Taylor	Burin, NF	727	\$200
10. Chris Elliott	Honeymoon Bay, BC	724	\$200
11. Brian Schultz	Calgary, AB	723	\$100
12. Ronald Brow	Havre Boucher, NS	721	\$100
13. Daniel Croganle	Camp Hill, PA	719	\$100
13. Paul Josh #1	Sarnia, ON	719	\$100
15. Dave Nicholson	Richmond Hill, ON	718	\$100
16. Denis Lafreniere	Sturgeon Falls, ON	717	\$100
17. Paul Josh #2	Sarnia, ON	716	\$100
17. Ken King	Beausejour, MB	716	\$100
17. Maureen Clark	Mission, BC	716	\$100
20. Kelly Steele	Maple Ridge, BC	714	\$75
20. Hughie Taylor	Burin, NF	714	\$75
22. Paul Josh #4	Sarnia, ON	713	\$50
23. W. Shadowens	Roseville, MI	712	\$50
24. Marino Grieco	Thornhill, ON	711	\$50

Week 02	Robert Gentry	Duluth, MN	\$100.00
	Tim Mielczarek	Chatham, ON	\$50.00
Week 03	Albert Keller	Port Alberni, BC	\$100.00
	Clifford Barros	Atlanta, GA	\$50.00
Week 04	William R. Kribs	Ottawa, ON	\$100.00
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Week 05	Howard Nifoussi	Annandale, NJ	\$100.00
	James Titus	Roslyn, PA	\$50.00
Week 06	Steph Palmateer	Englehart, ON	\$100.00
	Darren Mathews	Brandon, MB	\$50.00
Week 07	Dave Sabol	Marlton, NJ	\$100.00
	Brian Schultz	Calgary, AB	\$50.00
Week 08	Wallace Wellman	Corner Brook, NF	\$100.00
	Greg Angelus	Scarborough, ON	\$50.00
Week 09	Wallace Wellman	Corner Brook, NF	\$100.00
	James Brown	Point Pleasant, NJ	\$50.00
Week 10	Dan Boudreau	Thunder Bay, ON	\$100.00
	Joseph Chartrand	Richmond Hill, ON	\$50.00
Week 11	Gina Hayes	Troy, NY	\$100.00
	Larry Willford	Lawrenceville, GA	\$50.00
Week 12	Angus Jones	Brampton, ON	\$100.00
	Bill McCarthy	Narberth, PA	\$50.00
Week 13	Mike Spourdalakis	Sudbury, ON	\$100.00
	Dieter Cramer	Dawson Creek, BC	\$50.00
Week 14	Thomas Rigg Jr.	Dover, NH	\$100.00
	Chris Murray	Langley, BC	\$50.00

Weekly Winners

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Inside Sports*	1980-1993	104	_____

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By MARLEE MATLIN

## Out of Chaos, a Certain Beauty

I GREW UP IN CHICAGO, A city where people are very loyal to their particular teams. I happen to be one of those people. I like every team in Chicago: basketball, football, baseball, and hockey.

I love hockey because it's very visual, very exciting. It gives you an adrenaline rush. When you're sitting down low in the stands, you always think the Plexiglas at the side of the rink is going to break one day—like a backboard in basketball—and I'm always waiting for the day when the players are going to come tumbling over the barrier. I cringe when the guys hit the boards hard in front of me. I'm afraid of it, actually. I don't like the pain, and I don't understand why I love hockey if I don't like the pain. It's the most painful game.

Hockey is very emotional. It's funny to watch the players get so worked up and so involved. They just put it out there on the ice because they can't do it elsewhere. But while it's a very physical sport, you can see mind games going on as well. There's something compelling about the game—it's like trying to catch a mouse, you know? You chase and chase and can't catch that damn mouse—then you manage to sweep it into the goal.

The first time I saw hockey live was a Chicago Blackhawks game at old Chicago Stadium, around 1982. I was so in awe, and I was wondering what was going on. As I watched, I wasn't thinking so much about how big the players were or how fast or how well they skated. I thought: *Isn't it easy for them just to skate for three periods? Why do they have to keep changing players?* After I watched the entire game, though, I realized it's not easy at all, and I see why they have to keep changing lines. However, to this day I'm trying to figure out the rules of the game. It's still complicated to me, but it doesn't matter.

*Hockey gives you an adrenaline rush. I cringe when the guys hit the boards hard—I'm afraid of it, but I love it.*

I moved to Los Angeles to become an actress, and I often was offered seats by [former Kings owner] Bruce McNall. I took them once or twice. Mr. McNall was very gracious to me the times I went, but I realized I had to behave there, so I decided I wanted to be part of the crowd. One thing I would love to do is to sign a national anthem at a hockey game with someone good singing it. No one's asked me yet.

One time, when I was single, I was visiting Chicago, and I brought some friends to see the Kings play the Blackhawks. I told my friends I was a Los Angeles fan, and since I was going there to support my team they'd let me see the players after the game and get some autographs. My friends didn't believe me, but when Mr. McNall saw me he took me into the locker room.

I was petrified. Some of the players were

naked. Some were getting dressed. Mr. McNall said: "Wayne Gretzky is in the shower. Why don't you wait a moment?"

Then he handed me a pen and a pad of paper. I thought it might have been so I would look like a reporter, or because I'm hearing-impaired, maybe for communication purposes, though I almost never rely on a pad and pencil. So I just stood there with this pad and pencil. I thought it was thoughtful on his part.

The next thing I knew, there was Ron Duguay standing in front of me. I was by the wall, and he came right up to me with just a towel around his body—nothing else. I said to myself: *God bless hockey!* He stood talking to me, and I just smiled. I had no idea what he was saying. I just nodded.

Then Gretzky came out, and he was fully clothed.

Unfortunately.

Gretzky gave me an autographed stick, and I got another one from Duguay. I walked out sort of dazed, with two sticks, and my friends were completely impressed.

I didn't really pay attention to how good Duguay was on the ice, because he was so gorgeous. Gretzky, though—I pay attention to how well he plays. He's like a dancer on the ice. It's the way he turns. He goes

with the flow, and he trusts himself and his teammates. You feel relaxed when you watch him on the ice. You have faith in him. And you also have high expectations because of that.

When I get really excited, I want to support my team—actually, both teams, and all the players. I always feel bad when one person gets to go on the ice and the other person has to leave. But when they mess up I'm still there for them. When my team wins, I say, "Yes!" And then I look at the other team and think: *Oh no! You tried. You'll have to try again.* I always feel bad for whoever loses. I'm very sensitive to these kinds of things. ■

MARLEE MATLIN won a best actress Oscar for her performance in the 1986 film "Children of a Lesser God." Her latest feature film, "It's My Party," will be released later this year.





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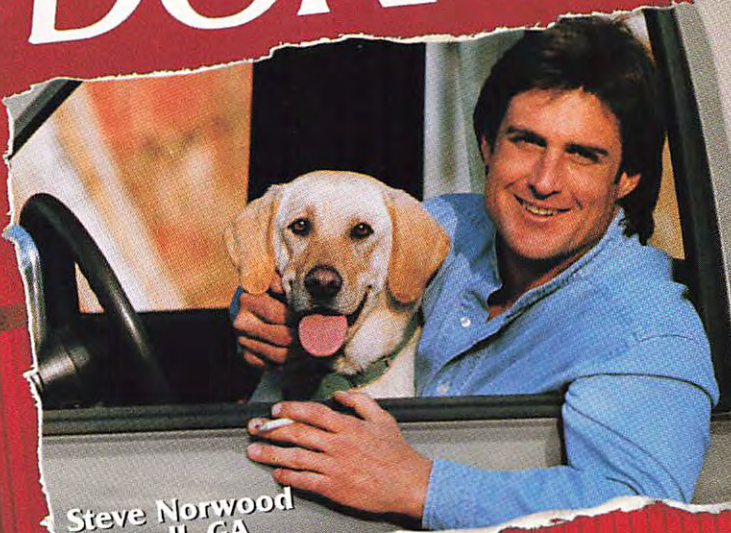
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Steve Norwood  
Roswell, GA

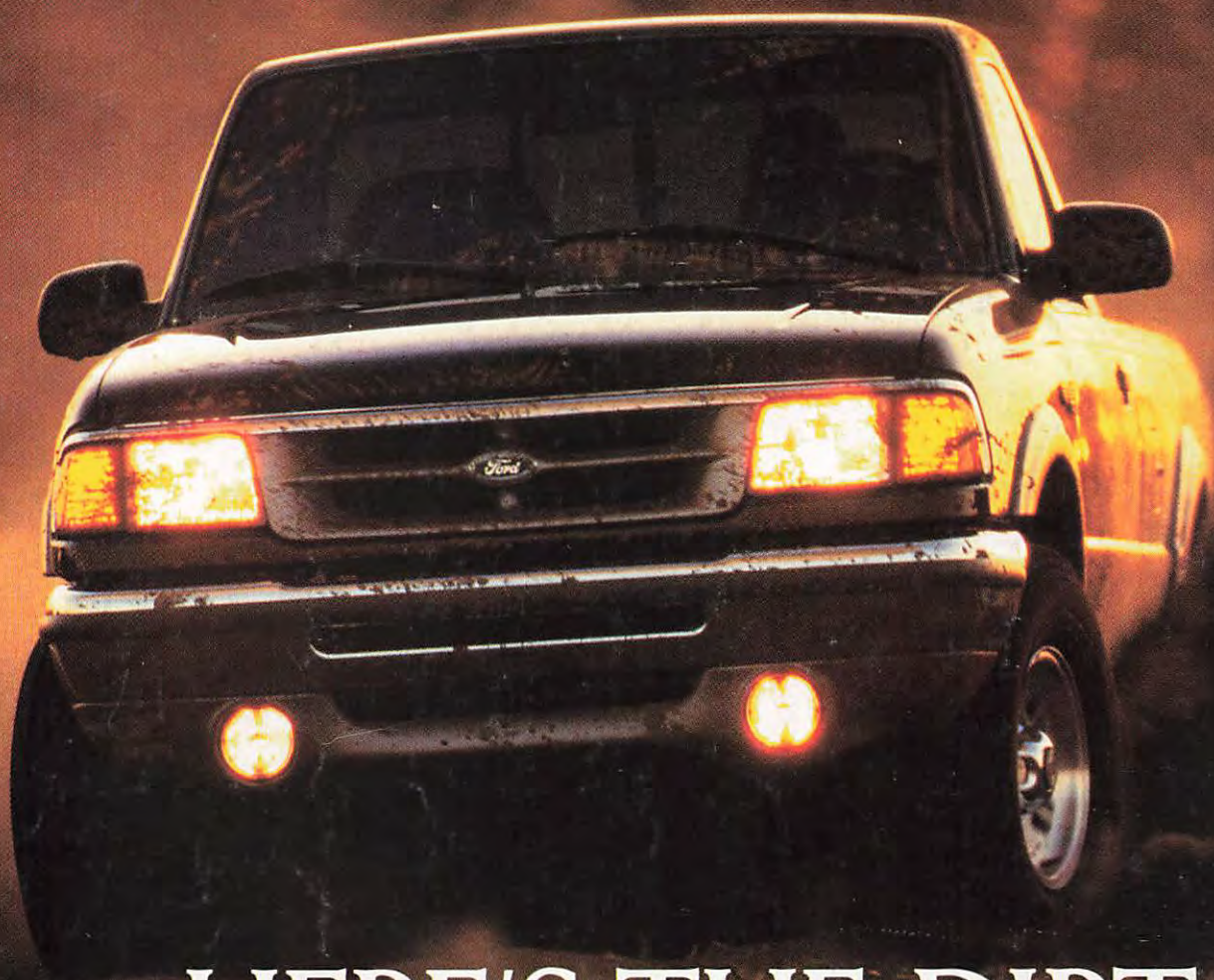
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**DISCOVER  
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"It shows that Doral  
stands behind their  
product, and that's  
important."

*Steve*





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\*Based on an average of consumer-reported problems at three months ownership in a survey of Ford and competitive models designed and built in North America. \*\*Always wear your safety belt. †Feature optional.